



**GOVERNING BODY OF LINCOLN READERS**  
[www.lincolnreaders.org](http://www.lincolnreaders.org)

**Minutes of the 234th meeting of the Governing Body of the Association held at  
 The Methodist Church, Horncastle on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30 pm**

| Item: | Subject:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Actions: |
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|       | <p><b>Opening Prayers:</b> - led by John Marshall</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
| 1     | <p><b>Welcome:</b> The Chairman welcomed all in attendance.</p> <p><b>Present:</b> Sally Buck, Warden of Readers; John Marshall, Chairman; Reverend Susan Williams; Paul Whiteley; Revd Susan Williams; Jane Hanson; Sue Slater; Chris Ledman; Margaret Smith; Rev Chris Woadden; Marion Hewis; Kevin Onn; Derek Page and Shirley Keyes (taking minutes)</p> <p><b>Apologies for absence:</b> Susan Horle; John Davies; Nigel Bacon and Reverend Mark Holden.</p>                                                                       |          |
| 2     | <p><b>Recent Appointments.</b> Shirley Keyes had been appointed as Secretary General. Marion Hewis and Nigel Bacon to be Assistant Secretaries General. Margaret Smith had been appointed as CRC Representative.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |
| 3     | <p><b>The Minutes of the 233rd Meeting of the Governing Body</b> held on 21<sup>st</sup> January were approved as a correct record. There was one correction Jane Henson should be Jane <u>Hanson</u>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |          |
| 4     | <p><b>Matters Arising from previous minutes:</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |
| 4.1   | <p>It was agreed not to rearrange the Readers meeting with +Nicholas which had been cancelled. Most people had had other opportunities to meet him now.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |
| 4.2   | <p>Educational Study Day to be held at St Nicholas Newport on 25 November</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |
| 4.3   | <p>Book group. The book will be reviewed at the end of the year. JM had had trouble registering some individuals. Readers are asked to advise John if they have a username.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |
| 4.4   | <p>Reminder to send details of Reader activities to JM.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |
| 5     | <p><b>Warden Updates</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |          |
| 5.1   | <p>There has been ongoing discussion about discernment and selection. SB and Susan Williams have put together a booklet for Readers. SB asked +Nicholas if he would write a forward/introduction. Thirty-five copies will be available for the Vocations Day. It includes the criteria for selection, the people to approach for guidance and appropriate reading and viewing material.</p> <p>Senior Readers will be encouraged to become lay vocation advisers in addition to SB. Lincoln School of Theology are about to start a</p> |          |

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| 5.2 | <p>discernment year. SB discussing need for robust formation working to ministry standards with Reverend Sally Myers. Possible that area groups of Readers could help candidates through criteria.</p> <p>IME Phase II training has not materialised for Readers licensed in the past 2 or 3 years. There are several possibilities being considered by SB and Simon Dean including a training weekend or possibly using Bishop Grosseteste during the holidays. SB favours time away as it enables participants to come together away from everyday pressures and can include teaching content. It was agreed that SB would take this to budget stage.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Warden</b></p>   |
| 5.3 | <p>MDR occurs whenever there is a 0 or 5 at end of year. This causes an enormous workload for the Warden of Readers over a short space of time. SB would like to explore something more creative. Her aim is to institute a rolling programme of interviews across the Diocese; possibly setting aside one day per week for appointments and reviewing one area every 2/3 months. Readers with PTO are reviewed every 3 years anyway. In Lincoln Diocese, Readers are considered active with ongoing ministry. PTO's no longer on regular rota/have regular commitments; more opportunity to pull back. Emeritus Readers have retired from active ministry but invited to annual service but no longer entitled to take a service. Retirement normally occurs at 70 but this is very arbitrary; maybe capacity/level of activity would be a better indicator for withdrawal?</p> <p>Essential that working agreements are reviewed annually with incumbent. Readers should review what is happening in their own lives to maintain life/work balance.</p> |                                                    |
| 5.4 | <p>Future retreats. Several venues have been approached for quotes. A stay from Friday to Sunday varies from £230 (Hothorpe Hall) to £140 (Launde Abbey and Swanwick). However, the governing body were asked to consider whether a pilgrimage would be more appropriate? Members asked to email their thoughts to SB.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                    |
| 5.5 | <p>Lay Ministry. SB reported that this year's CRC AGM had focussed on the role of Readers in the growth and renewal of faith. The Diocese used to have a strong ALM ministry, many of whom felt called then to take up Reader ministry. Currently ALM training is patchy. SB and Jesse Ratcliff are planning to raise awareness of lay training through articles in upcoming editions of Crosslinks, promoting discipleship courses whilst visiting deaneries and using the 2018 annual service to celebrate lay ministries and possibly mark authorisations that have taken place within deaneries throughout the year. JM noted that a lay gathering at Swanwick had not been held for several years and it was suggested that JM write to +Nicholas suggesting one.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                    |
| 5.6 | <p>celebrate lay ministries and possibly mark authorisations that have taken place within deaneries throughout the year. JM noted that a lay gathering at Swanwick had not been held for several years and it was suggested that JM write to +Nicholas suggesting one.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairman</b></p> |
| 5.7 | <p>Suggestions of creative readings for the 2017 service were welcomed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                    |
| 6.0 | <p><b>Readers Return</b></p> <p>On the whole the e survey was deemed a success. There were 96 responses on line (10 more than previous year) and 5252 commitments were carried out by Readers during 2016. There were some problems including people completing the survey multiple times. A substantial number of Readers flagged up a need for support during interregna. This is a significant problem as there are as many as 20/30 vacancies at any one time. SB could conduct the annual review/working agreement in the absence of an incumbent. It was agreed that questions would be modified for the 2017 survey.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                    |
| 6.1 | <p>Safeguarding. Secretaries/area wardens to encourage Readers to register for a C3 course. This is the same level as clergy. The course is split into two parts; online training consisting of several modules with a test followed by a 1 day course led by a member of safeguarding</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                    |

team. For the first time, dedicated safeguarding training will be offered to Readers in 2017 to take place in all three archdeaconries. It is hoped that it will “offer space” to ask questions if people from the “first chair” are absent. Safeguarding training needs to be renewed every 3 years. The safeguarding panel to produce a pocket guide which will be available later in the year. Readers cannot minister if their DBS check is overdue.

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**Area Updates**

Chris Ledman has been appointed the Warden of Holland deanery. He reported that the secretary has no database of members. Three meetings planned for 2017.

The quiet day at Southwell on 25 May has been cancelled.

Sue Slater requested that emails are single subject only; she felt vital information is often overlooked in emails with multiple headings.

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**Future Dates for 2017**

6<sup>th</sup> September – Governing Body Meeting at Horncastle Methodist Church

29<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October – Retreat at Willersley Castle

7<sup>th</sup> October – Annual Service and AGM

25<sup>th</sup> November – Ecumenical Study Day – St Nicholas Newport

13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Annual Service and AGM

Future Governing Body meetings - **prayers to be led by:**

|  |               |                |
|--|---------------|----------------|
|  | Grimsby Area  | September 2017 |
|  | Grantham Area | January 2018   |
|  | Elloe Area    | May 2018       |

Signed:**Chairman** Date: