



GOVERNING BODY OF LINCOLN READERS
www.lincolnreaders.org

**Minutes of the 236th meeting of the Governing Body of the Association held at
 The Methodist Church, Horncastle on Saturday 20th January 2018 at 2.00 pm**

Item:	Subject:	Actions:
	<p>Opening Prayers:</p>	
1	<p>Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all in attendance especially Reverend Lorna Brabin-Smith, the Area Warden for Lincoln (Christianity and Graffoe deaneries.)</p> <p>Present: Bishop Nicholas, Sally Buck, Warden of Readers; John Marshall, Chairman; Reverend Chris Woadden; Susan Horle; Nigel Bacon; Margaret Smith; Marion Hewis; Kevin Onn; Derek Page; and Shirley Keyes (taking minutes)</p> <p>Apologies for absence: Neil Burgess, Chris Ladner, Jane Hanson, Terry Bardell, Paul Whiteley, Sue Slater and Reverend Mark Holden.</p>	
2	<p>The Minutes of the 235th Meeting of the Governing Body held on 6th September were approved as a correct record subject to the following corrections:</p> <p>1.1 prayers were led by Kevin Onn 4.2 should read "IME Phase I" and candidates "undergo a selection process"</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising from previous minutes:</p> <p>8.1 The Chair wished to thank Neil Burgess (Ministry Team Leader) and Nigel Bacon for their input into the AGM. 6.1 Feedback from Reader only safeguarding training has been very positive. Sixteen people are due to attend session in Boston next week. The database is being updated so that it flags up those people who need to renew training.</p>	
4	<p>Warden Updates</p>	
4.1	<p>Budget. The budget has been ring fenced for 2018 and replicates the 2017 budget. There is funding included for IME Phase II i.e. the residential component. The balance is to cover CMD, pilgrimage etc which also includes £1200 for one-off grants, mileage and expenses.</p>	
4.2	<p>2018 Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Dadswell (Bishops Strategy Implementation Adviser) has set up 2 dates (3 and 24 March) to talk about Learning Communities and Reader input into them. • There will be no Lent Quiet Days this year. Sue Slater is 	

<p>4.3</p> <p>5</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>organising a quiet day at Edenham on 12 May and SB to organise some for the summer. Area Secretaries are encouraged to plug these dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifteen people are booked on the pilgrimage and there is capacity for a further five. The venue is Shepherds Deane and will be led by Canon Alex Whitehead; the theme is “Spirituality of Durham/Newcastle area”. • +Nicholas is co-ordinating the Study Day on the 15 September. Venue tba. <p>2017 Service and AGM</p> <p>+Nicholas and SB met with the Precentor, Sal McDougall, to reflect on last year’s service. Sal observed how little the cathedral is utilised on the day and how they want to be more pro-active. A further meeting is proposed after the installation of the new chancellor. Anybody who wants to be part of a small working party organising the 2018 celebration of lay ministry to talk to SB.</p> <p>Area Updates</p> <p>Lincoln area. Currently no secretary.</p> <p>Holland area. JM remarked that there is a feeling that as modern communications have changed how information is relayed, that there is a general reluctance to attend lots of local meetings. Is there a way of regenerating enthusiasm or another way forward?</p> <p>There is also the question whether the Area Warden/Secretary structure is still valid? Holland is unable to engage a warden. Elloe has a relatively new warden. They are generating new ideas but still not enough people are attending meetings. Do Readers want to go or unable to? What is the purpose of meetings? It is usually an opportunity to socialise, worship or listen to a guest speaker (or all three) with other Readers.</p> <p>SB remarked that there has been some confusion in the past as to what counts as CMD. It is important to share ideas about best practice and engage in focussed discussions but the social aspect is important too e.g. sharing a meal together.</p> <p>The definition of the role of Area Warden and Area Secretary are defined in the constitution. Nigel Bacon asked if they are up to date and relevant to today’s needs?</p> <p>SB suggested that the Standing Committee have a single agenda meeting following the meeting with CRC. NB suggested that the committee pretends that the constitution does not exist and redefine what is an area. SB asked what the CRC requires of diocesan readers bodies to which John replied that a lot of Readers don’t even know they have a governing body and that CRC may not have any expectation because roles vary from diocese to diocese. NB to feed back to the AGM in October after discussions have taken place.</p> <p>John also suggested obtaining feedback from Readers by using another questionnaire but after they have completed the annual survey.</p> <p>+Nicholas felt that role of areas is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support vocational direction • getting a Reader role model in every area • looking out for gifts • invitation to transformation. <p>Susan Horle agreed that it is hard to move forward if there is no local Reader and “Readers grow Readers.” Is it time to reinterpret the role of the area for a new generation?</p> <p>SB felt that some of the questions could not be answered until we have an idea of what the bigger picture for Readers is. Areas might be more</p>	<p>Assistant Secretary General (NB)</p>
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than about “us.” Many Readers are underused. Some older Readers trained during a “gentler” era and are used to the ‘vicar’s helper’ model. Nowadays perhaps the training is more rigorous, and the standard has improved enormously.

6.0 **Future Study Dates**

6.1 As per agenda

7.0 **Selection Process of Readers**

7.1 There is a commitment within the Diocese to pilot a selection process. The DDO and VA has suggested a more creative process which can incorporate activities that are important for selection. NB suggested a group activity that shows ability to work collaboratively alongside an individual interview. Applications will go through the office of the DDO and VA and the selection panel would consist of +Nicholas and other Readers. The bishop was especially keen to emphasise that this is a serious selection process which demonstrates the confidence and commitment to Reader ministry. SB asked for volunteers to meet to produce evidence based selection criteria. Lorna Brabin-Smith and Margaret Smith both expressed interest.

8.0 **Any other business**

8.1 JM urged everyone to check minister details on A Church Near You. Old Clergy details are still listed unless Crockfords are notified of any changes. David Mason is the person responsible for information from the Diocese.

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 19th January 2019 at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa.

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

	Elloe Area	May 2018

Signed: **Chairman** Date:

Secretary
General to
liaise with LW