

## Lode Parish Council

### Minutes of the Open Parish meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 19 May 2014

#### The minutes comprise 3 pages plus 12 Reports

**Present** Cllrs P Dean (Chairman), F Platten, C Rickard and A Tomlinson and D/Cllr and Mrs R Stevens together with Mr T Cassidy (Internal Audit), Mr C Platten (Social Club), Mr M Lord (Neighbourhood Watch) and Mr T Ambrose.

**Apologies** C/Cllr M Shuter, D/Cllr K Ellis Cllrs P Lane, E Mitchell and S Woolley, Mrs A Langran (Mothers' Union), Mrs C Tideswell and Mr J Tideswell (Football),

**Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 May 2013 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Chairman's Report** Cllr Dean reported that:-

- this was his fourth annual parish meeting as chairman in this period and his eighth overall.
- 2013/2014 had not been a year of major developments but rather of negotiation and attrition as the major matters beyond the day to day planning, grass cutting, cemetery maintenance, allotments etc. had been the pursuit of the cycle path from Lode to Quy and the reopening of the permissive path by the lode beyond Anglesey Abbey. Thanks in no small part to Cllr Woolley-the footpath, albeit over a rudimentary stile, is now accessible.
- the cycle path will take a little longer but if Cllr Platten, who has taken the lead on behalf of the Council, continues to show the same tenacity he is sure she will prevail.
- as to single out just two names would be unfair he would like to thank all the Councillors who have served both in this and the earlier years of his chairmanship. He is aware that many people think Councillors either do nothing or that everything they do is wrong but he knows that everyone is attempting to do their best to keep Lode with Longmeadow a place in which to live.
- finally he would like to thank the Clerk not only for his day to day administration but for putting up with his many phone calls asking him to trawl the archives because he has suddenly half remembered something from some twelve years ago.

**Treasurer's Report** The Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer presented the statement of accounts

#### Receipts and Payments as reflected in the Bank Accounts 2013/2014

	Receipts	Notes	Payments	Notes
<b>Admin</b>	14 649.00	Precept, Interest, Grants	5 243.34	Clerk, Audit, Subs, Insurance, Stationery
<b>Hall</b>	3 726.08	ECDC Grant, Donations	4 912.14	Electricity, Furniture, Insurance, Maintenance.
<b>Highways</b>	1010.00	CCC Grass Cutting Grant.	1 512.00	Verges Grass Cutting
<b>Lighting</b>	0.00	FHMC, Football Club etc	24.51	e-on Street Lighting
<b>Fields</b>	3 008.00	Interment, Plots etc.	4 952.86	Grass Cutting, Insurance, Goal Posts, Dog Bin
<b>Cemetery</b>	336.00	Plot Holders	2 079.05	Caretaker, Drainage, Insurance, Water, Hedge
<b>Play Area</b>	0.00	Booklet Sales	1 052.72	Inspection, Insurance, Maintenance.
<b>Rents</b>	194.00		0.00	
<b>P3</b>	32.00			
<b>Donation</b>			0.00	£200 Lode Star Cheque not banked.
<b>VAT</b>	1 780.65	HMRC Refund		
<b>Total</b>	24 741.73	<b>Total</b>	19 824.92	

**Petty Cash****Receipts**

Cash Tin	<b>B/F</b>	<b>42.41</b>
Allotments	Rents	13.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55.41</b>

**Payments**

PPP	Booklets	32.00
Post Office	Postage	12.90
	<b>Total</b>	<b>44.90</b>
Cash Tin	<b>C/F</b>	<b>10.51</b>

He reported that:-

- during the year there had been a number of purchases which did not impact upon the precept. These included a set of demountable goalposts paid for by donations from the Football Association and Football Club and new furniture for the Fassage Hall paid for by a donation from the Management Committee. When Fassage Hall was first proposed it was agreed that it should receive the same level of financial support as the old pavilion.. Not only does the Hall continue to be financially self supporting but each year the Management Committee makes a substantial contribution to the cutting of the Playing Field.
- with one or two jobs still outstanding at the beginning of the financial year, it is pleasing to report that the bank account continues to show healthy balances with £12 023.79 being carried forward into the new financial year.

**Lode Charity** The Clerk reported that:-

- the Trustees had asked him to seek out a copy of the Constitution of the Charity. A trawl of the minutes back to 1960 had produced no evidence of any written constitution so, by using the minutes a suitable document was produced which with one minor change relating to suppliers was adopted.
- two payments, the first in July and the second in November, had been received from the Bottisham United Charities. This was distributed as follows - in July to 79 pensioners and in November to 79 pensioners and 5 students studying post GCSE.

**Fassage Hall** Cllr Rickard reported that:-

- the Hall continues to be financially secure mainly as the Nursery School continues to provide a good source of income.
- a number of maintenance items carried out at a cost of about £4 000 had been covered by income received.

**Footpaths** Cllr Rickard reported that on occasion certain landowners continue to be slow in re-instating footpaths after ploughing but in general the parish continues to be served with a good network of paths..

**Neighbourhood Watch** Mr Lord took the opportunity to thank all those who ensure the success of the Watch.

**Trees** Mr Platten reported that:-

- the trees in the main woodland on White Fen Drove and the tree planted at the crossroads continue to flourish
- one hazel tree had been planted in the village orchard and two shade trees, one of which had subsequently died, had been planted in the Play Area.

**Social Club** Mr Platten reported that:-

- at the recent AGM members had agreed that the building should be sold and had approved the sale to a local resident who wished to convert it into a public house/restaurant.
- concerns had been expressed that (1) the offer of £130.000 was considerably less than that which could be obtained on the open market, such an enterprise would exacerbate the village parking problem and the noise from a pub would destroy the peace and tranquillity of the village; (2) the vote had been questioned and found void by the club committee.
- a second EGM is to be held with two options to consider. To allow the offer which is on the table to go forward or to sell the building at market value.
- he had been elected to chair a new committee which is to organise the EGM and to decide how the income from the sale can best be used to the benefit of the village.

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**Cycle Path** Cllr Platten reported that a difficulty had been identified by those attempting to donate funds through the Sustrans web site. This problem was being resolved. A longer report is printed below.

Reports were presented in person by D/Cllr B Stevens (E CDC), Mr T Cassidy (Internal Audit), Cllr F Platten (Cycle Way) and Mrs J Sale (St James Church).

Others were received from Cllr E Mitchell (Lode Star and Wicken Fen Liaison), Ms S Coxall (WI), Ms J Jephcott (Anglesey Abbey), Mr J Kempster (Tennis), Mrs A Langran (Mothers' Union), Mrs C Tideswell (Football) and Peter Wells (Lode Chapel).

There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8.30pm.

..... **Signed by the Chairman Cllr C Rickard**

## **Dist Cllr Robert Stevens**

### **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' NOTES FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 2014**

Our notes have appeared most months in our village magazines, but here are some of the more significant matters.

The new recycling service using the blue and green wheeled bins was introduced from last September. It has proved to be a great success in increasing the amount of materials that are being sent to material processors for reuse or for making compost, and has reduced the tax and the amount of landfill space needed at Waterbeach.

The Neighbourhood Panel Meetings which the Council had been hosting in various villages around the District over the last six years have ceased to be held, due to dwindling attendance. Parish Councils will be invited to attend a Forum every six months and residents are always free to contact the District and County Councils and Police by phone or email, or to contact their local Councillors directly.

The draft Local Plan was submitted to the Government Inspector and public hearings were held in February. The Plan sets out policies on development in the District over the next 16 years and includes sections on every parish in the District, called Village Visions. The new Plan will be used when assessing Planning Applications. The new Plan is expected to become a legal document by the end of 2014.

The District Council supports the building of affordable homes in perpetuity for people who have family connections with parishes or who work in them. These may be for rent or for shared ownership with one of many Housing Associations. Community Land Trusts have been set up as charitable bodies in three parishes in the District. These will provide homes and other facilities and also income from ground rents for maintaining community facilities. Unless new homes are built, the population of parishes will decline, since the average number of residents per house has been steadily declining, for various reasons. This makes local facilities harder to run, and the rising cost of housing has made sons and daughters leave for better prospects elsewhere.

Energy Efficiency and the local generation of Renewable Energy are becoming more prominent issues. The Council has worked with other Cambridgeshire councils to appoint an accredited company, Climate Energy, to assess properties and carry out improvements which residents require. Many homes may benefit from free work, or else loans from the Government's Green Deal scheme. The Council has approved several solar farms and anaerobic digesters recently, the latest one being a solar farm with 108,000 panels by the A14 in Burwell parish. There is currently a public consultation on Commercial Scale Renewable Energy Development, which also includes solar farms, anaerobic digesters and biomass power stations (such as the straw-burning one in Sutton parish) and wind farms, of which there are none currently in East Cambridgeshire.

#### **Internal Audit – T Cassidy**

The position of Internal Auditor, independent of the Council, was introduced by the Government as an on-going requirement to ensure that local councils "maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of their accounting records and control systems" and "to assist the council in fulfilling its responsibility for the protection and detection of fraud, error or mistakes".

I have now undertaken the duties of Internal Auditor to Lode Parish Council for ten years. After helpful meetings with the Parish Clerk and the Finance Sub-Committee, I have inspected the documents provided, and obtained clarification of the various procedures undertaken within the Lode Parish Council to my satisfaction. I wish to report as follows -

1. Book-keeping System. The basic requirements relating to the keeping of the computerised Day Book which should contain details of all receipts and payment are satisfactory. Subsidiary records such as allotment rents, cemetery fees, and petty cash all support the Day Book. The computer spreadsheets support the necessary Bank Reconciliation monitored by Finance Sub-Committee. A separate copy of all computer files is now kept on a routine basis for security and back-up purposes.

2. Financial Standing Orders and Payment Controls. The current Financial Regulations and Standing Orders include a Financial Procedures document and the role of the Finance Sub-Committee is clear. Purchasing procedures and payments are supported by the necessary paperwork. Quotations, cheque book stubs, payment receipts, invoices, etc. are all filed for checking. VAT is appropriately accounted for and recovered.

3. Risk Assessment and Asset Control. The Annual and on-going risk assessment achieved its objectives, and financial reserves and 'ring fenced' sums are clearly recorded. A regular review of assets, (mainly equipment), is undertaken as is the adequacy of insurance cover.

4. Budgetary, Income and Petty Cash Controls. The regular reporting of expenditure and any variances from the budget is under adequate control, with the involvement of Finance Sub-Committee. The Precept and Grant income has been properly and promptly received. Incidental expenses through the Petty Cash Book are recorded. All payments are checked against invoices.

5. Payroll Controls. A review of arrangements for payments to the Parish Clerk, employees and contractors, particularly regarding administration and documentation in accordance with PAYE/NIC regulations, was carried out to my satisfaction.

6. Year End Procedures. From my review to date of the Local Councils' Governance and Accountability Guidance, plus the helpful clarifications and provision of documents by Parish Clerk, I feel that the Annual Return for Year Ending 31st March 2013 can be satisfactorily completed on behalf of Lode Parish Council and that I can complete Section 4 'Annual Internal Auditor's Report' to my satisfaction.

#### **Lode to Quoy cycle path May 2014 Update – Cllr Fran Platten**

We have made progress, but it is slow I'm afraid.

- in October 2013 Marshalls paid for a feasibility study after Liz Mitchell organised a meeting with Jonathan Barker and Emma Fletcher. This was a huge step forward
- of the six routes, we chose the one on the south side of the B1102, mostly along the verge
- we are now trying to get the funding, and this has not been so successful
- we wrote to Patrick Joyce who is the county cycling officer at the County Council and asked if we could get money from the City Deal. It seems we fall outside their remit.
- I put a question to East Cambs. development and Transport committee in April this year and asked for section 106 money, Community infrastructure Levy [CIL] and The New Homes Bonus. It transpires that the former only has £860 for Lode Parish and £3000 for the rest of the district, and this will not be forthcoming until the larger bulk of the money had been secured. The CIL money is small, but if the 50 houses in Bell Road Bottisham are built we could perhaps have some of that. I have attached the e-mail to go with this reply as it is complicated. The New Homes Bonus is used for Council business and is not available.
- we have raised £1635 from Jumble sales and stalls so far, which is secure with Sustrans, but I cannot promote online donations at the moment, because it does not seem to be working very well.
- the **In Stitches** group of knitters lead by Clare Wilkes and Catherine Onley are doing an amazing job with their marvellous exhibition of decorated bicycles at Anglesey Abbey over Easter which raised a great deal of interest. They raised £100 at a stall at Reach Fair, which Liz Mitchell organised also cleverly getting names of those willing to help in the future.

What needs to be done now?

- contact councillors from South Cambs, East Cambs and the County Council and encourage them to push our case
- contact Jim Paice our MP
- contact Julian Huppert who is the MP for Cambridge and a keen cyclist
- talk to Marshalls who have recently put in a large planning application called the Wing Project behind Newmarket Road. They will need to include a transport plan including a cycling plan
- talk to the National Trust who are keen to get visitors to cycle to their sites

Please let us know if you are able to do any of these things. It is always good if someone has any expertise or experience.

Many thanks to the other members of the Parish Council who give support and for Charlie Rickard in particular who rewrites my articles and who wrote the original assessment for the cycle path which was partly used by Sustrans in its feasibility study.

### **St James' Church Lode with Longmeadow – Julie Sale**

2013 has been a busy year. It was the first full year that Rev Sue Giles had been with us so there were a few new events happening which are mentioned later in the report. Pauline Holmes kindly agreed to be the minute secretary at our PCC meetings which is a great help.

During the year:-

- there has been 1 Baptism, 1 Wedding and 0 Funerals.
- the Church gutters and lead flashing have been repaired as needed.
- Rev'd Sue Giles started a Toddler Play and Praise Group for the Benefice in our Parish Room at the beginning of the Summer term. This has been well received. Up to 14 families attend the sessions.
- 16 children celebrated Shrove Tuesday in Fassage Hall by joining in crafts and games including pancake races and eating pancakes with a variety of fillings. Thanks to the team who helped on the day.
- we are pleased to have the talents of Richard Ayres as our organist.
- the Weekly Coffee mornings are still well attended. The Social Club have made us most welcome. Many thanks go to Wendy Parrish for helping me run the sessions.
- we have run a variety of fundraising events including Coffee Mornings, plant, cake and book stall, teas at Open Gardens, the village fete and Lodestar festival. We also held a village BBQ at Station Farm and 2 of our congregation cycled to Burwell for the Historic Churches Cycle ride. We managed to raise £3196 towards our total outgoings for the year of £15,435. Despite the the hard work of our PCC and the small congregation we still had short fall of £308.
- as Anglesey Benefice we filled 100 shoe boxes for the Shoe Box Appeal. This is an annual event. People are enjoying the opportunity to get together and pool their resources for this worthwhile cause.
- on 1<sup>st</sup> November Rev'd Sue Giles organised a light party for children from the benefice. 24 children and their families enjoyed an evening of games and activities on a light theme.
- our annual Carol Singing around the village raised £161 for Red2Green.

### **Lode Star Report – Cllr Elizabeth Mitchell**

Lode Star continues into its 38<sup>th</sup> year of providing village news, publicity for events and reports on the interest and activities of residents who live in Lode and Longmeadow. Susan Swannell has been Production Editor since the first issue- an achievement that was recognised in June 2013 at the Cambridge Building Society Community Magazine Awards. Susan started off with Roneod copy and has kept in touch with technology so the magazine, like many other village magazines, is produced using Microsoft Publisher.

Mark Crawford is Treasurer and his report on the accounts will be in June Lode Star. In summary, each copy which is delivered 11 times a year, free of charge to every household in the village, costs 85p to produce. This is met out of advertising and from donations and grants. We are grateful to the Parish Council for providing £200 and to other donors including Re:New who support the magazine with an annual donation. We are pleased to continue using a local social enterprise, Burwell Print, for our printing needs.

We also want to thank our team of deliverers ably co-ordinated by Doreen Webb: Muriel Cordell, Rita Lane, Loni Ellison, Ken and Cynthia Golding, Ingrid Symonds, Lesley Pulvertaft, Jenny Leeton and Peter Coxall. Peter took over from Bridget Shepherd who had been a deliverer for over thirty years. Many thanks to her. People do often tell us that they read Lode Star, use the advertisers, and are pleased that it is delivered to them free of charge. What we also always appreciate are written comments, letters and unsolicited articles that people think will interest other readers and/or provide insight into village life. So please don't be shy about sending us your ideas.

### **2014 Annual Report on Wicken Fen Liaison – Cllr Elizabeth Mitchell**

I attend the twice yearly meetings of the Wicken Fen Liaison Forum on behalf of Lode Parish Council. Other attendees include Parish Councillors from Wicken, Burwell, Reach and the Swaffhams, and representatives from groups who use Wicken Fen (walkers, cyclists, horse riders, bird watchers). Most of the discussion at the meetings relates to operational issues at Wicken Fen eg how hides are being constructed, disabled access, parking issues (including in Wicken village) and more recently enforcing agreements for

Traveller Groups to move from the site. At the April meeting the final versions of the downloadable maps were presented – (sample attached).

Although there is often not much on the agenda that is of direct interest to Lode I think it is useful to attend, especially as the Lodes Way becomes more popular. It is also helpful to develop the networks with other local councillors and interest groups. At the meeting in April I mentioned the the Lode-Quy cycle campaign. There was interest and support and the Forum have asked for it to be put on the agenda of the next meeting in Sept/October for full discussion in the context of other cycling initiatives and experience.

### **Lode W.I – Sheila Coxall**

The main highlight for Lode in the post year was their 95th Birthday celebration held in July. A delicious meal of ham, salads etc. was followed by mouth watering homemade fresh strawberry pavlovas. Entertainment by the Federation Players and a large birthday cake made it an evening to remember.

It has been many years since we planted bulbs in the village so again this year we got our spades out and planted another 500 bulbs in Lode and Longmeadow and are now seeing the results of our hard work.

Many members have been on events organised by the Federation including visits to Wimbledon (where some members were lucky enough to bump into Roger Taylor and Andrew Castle), Visit to Constable country; Curtain-Up supper; Cambridge Folk Museum; the London Christmas lights and river tour, - the list could go on. We have also arranged our own visits to see Calendar Girls at the ADC, 10-pin bowling at Strikes in Ely; and the Pantomime in Combe Ridge.

At our meetings we have heard about the lives and habits of badgers, the Gurkhas Welfare Trust; the history of witches through the ages: Boating, The cistern - tips from a lady plumber (many members now have her number!); shown how to make an authentic Indian curry - this was followed by tasting and the room was full of some wonderful aromas;

hands on evening making wire bracelets for a Christmas decoration made from beads - very fiddly; an open Meeting with Waitrose - their way of business and why Community matters, a cheese and wine tasting followed this talk much to the delight of members!

We enjoyed our Christmas party with delicious food and games. Much laughter filled the hall and Father Christmas also dropped in with presents for everyone. A number of members got further into the Christmas spirit by attending the Words and Music for Christmas held at Girton church. Unfortunately on the way home one of the cars was stopped by a police check on drink driving but having had only a cup of tea and being four respectable ladies of the WI they were allowed to continue home.

Presents have again been distributed to all the 75's and over in the village and the list grows longer each year. Our new programme looks equally as exciting as we look forward to our next year.

### **Anglesey Abbey – Janet Jephcott**

Dog Bin - We are still pursuing the installation of a dog bin for the area along the footpath and are in discussion with Veola about where it is best situated for ease of collection, further updates will follow.

Sluice work on the sluice is going well, the temporary discharge pipe is out and the bank re-filled with rocks and earth. The sluice base has been completed and is working well. The contractors are just finishing up the bank building with the gabion baskets and the bridge is almost completed but will not be open until all the works are finished as they do not want walkers crossing the path with machinery on the other side. The footpath running over the sluice is open again (there was a short temporary closure last week) NT staff milled over weekend.

Domestic Wing Project Launch Fete – The following piece should appear in Lode Star next edition, plus posters and word of mouth via community ambassadors. 'To celebrate the opening of our newly refurbished domestic wing and the links it has with local people we would like to invite residents of Lode & Longmeadow, Bottisham or Quy to attend our 1960's themed fete. If you would like to join us on Saturday 28th June between 11am and 3pm please bring a utility bill as proof of address. We hope to see you there.' This is in addition to the previously advertised Lode free weekends.

Abbey Lane Residents Meeting – On the invitation of some Abbey Lane residents Mark Bradshaw (new General Manager at Anglesey Abbey) and Janet Jephcott attended an informal meeting so residents could make them aware of their concerns regarding parking during the temporary absence of Amanda Crack.

### **Lode Tennis Club – Jeff Kempster**

The Tennis Club continues to thrive and prosper. It is well supported (see membership numbers below) with members continuing to enjoy the excellent tennis court facilities. The popular tennis coaching, has been organised again for 2014 (for the fifth straight year), and has once again been well subscribed for, with 13 juniors of various ages, and 5 adults, all attending a course of 8 x 1 hour sessions on Sunday mornings which will be completed at the end of June 2014. The coaching for juniors is subsidised in part by the club. The club has held some social events during the last year, a Music Quiz in February 2014 and a safari dinner party in May 2013, both were well attended and enjoyed by all. The annual Open Day and Barbecue this year will be scheduled for the end of July 2014 to which members and non-members alike are invited to come along and share some Pimms, learn more about the club, and (if they want to), attempt to play some social tennis ! The clubs finances are on target to be able to fund most if not all of the anticipated costs of relaying the court which is expected to be necessary in around 2 - 3 years time.

The club has a website - [www.lodetennis.net](http://www.lodetennis.net) where information about the club, and contact details for other tennis players and members can be found. It also has various notices of upcoming events and the minutes of committee meetings. In addition members can join the tennis ladders and challenge others to a match directly from the website.

Total membership is currently estimated at:- 46 member units (some adult, some couple, some family) - giving an estimated total membership of 94 (using an estimate of 3 members per family membership).

#### **THE ANGLESEY GROUP MOTHERS' UNION – Ann Langran**

The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union (which includes members from four of our five villages) continues to meet in Lode Chapel on the 3d Thursday afternoon of each month at 2.30pm.

Our programme for 2013 covered a wide variety of topics, and began with a New Year Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Sue Giles. Before the service Susan Baker, Ely Diocesan MU President for the 2013 - 2015 Triennium enrolled four new members, including Rev. Sue Giles. After the service a brief business meeting was held with presentation of accounts during tea. Our speakers during the year included Jennifer Day, from Traidcraft, Rev. Stephen Talbot, volunteer Chaplain with Cambridgeshire Constabulary Police, Cambridge Daily Bread Co-operative, Liz

Elson, MU Diocesan Link for Overseas, Sue Hempstead volunteer with Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness, Alison Blair-Underwood, Chair of the Friends of the Leper Ghapel and Richard Todd, Head Gardener at Anglesey Abbey. In August our summer cream tea was held in Bottisham Hall by the kind invitation of Jill and Roger Jenyns. Members, husbands and friends enjoyed this social event pondering over a fun quiz during tea with prize raffle too end the afternoon. Our vicar Sue Giles gave us a most interesting talk on her visit to Mara, Tanzania. Updating us on projects that are ongoing to provide equipment for schools, mosquito nets and aid the supply of clean drinking water. The programme concluded with 36 members, including husbands and friends enjoying a Christmas Lunch followed by carol singing.

#### **Bottisham Lode Football Club – Caroline Tideswell**

We would like to thank Alan Lamb and the parish council for their help and funding in getting us our new goals for Lode they were very much appreciated. And a big thank you to our sponsors.

This season we played our reserves team at Lode. It is our intention to play here again next season.

It's unclear at this present time which team will be playing at Lode. Stewart is going to continue to mark the pitches but will not be doing the cleaning of the pavilion. We will try and organise a replacement to do this. We were sorry to hear about the closure of the golf lounge. All in all everything is going well and it is our intention to register three teams for Bottisham & Lode next season.

#### **Lode Chapel Report– Peter Wells**

Our Minister, Rev. Simon Goddard, left on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to take up a post as Regional Minister with the Eastern Baptist Association. Simon has been Minister of the church for seven years and he will be sadly missed. In the meantime, until we are in a position to appoint a new minister, the church will be led by the two Elders, Rev. Keith Morrison and Peter Wells.

The main Sunday morning worship continues to be held at Bottisham Primary School under the name of RE:NEW. The average congregation is around 40 people and we have groups for children and teenagers. We

also hold a monthly traditional evening service at Lode Chapel on the second Sunday of each month, and at Great Witbraham Baptist Chapel on the fourth Sunday evening. We have also had various social activities in the Chapel, including shared meals with our friends in the churches of the Anglesey Benefice.

The Lode Chapel building continues to be well used by the wider community. Every week there are meetings of Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club; Little Lode Monkeys toddler group; and a Pilates class which meets twice weekly. Following the closure of the Lode Social Club, the village Coffee Morning will also meet there on Wednesdays. The Lode Women's Institute and the Lode Mothers' Union continue to hold their monthly meetings

in the Chapel. The Chapel is used regularly by numerous other Christian groups and churches around the area

for meetings and away-days. It has also been used for marriage preparation courses; a wedding; Duke of Edinburgh's Award training; a Babycalm course; a music workshop; Regional Photo Federation committee meetings and the Red2Green carol service. We are very pleased that the Chapel facilities able to be shared in these ways, alongside our own church use of the building.

The church leadership team are in the process of setting up a project group to assess the work which needs to be done on the fabric of the building; in particular the windows, which are in need of repair, and also the provision of a disabled access toilet.