

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HOLBEACH PCC

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

1. The meeting opened with a prayer led by Michaela.

Present: Carol Hellen; Mick Boylan; Michaela Dean; Sara Williams; Martin Butler; Kevin Dodd; Marion Goodman; Tracy Ford; Kim Biggs. Jane Francis also present by invitation. Helen Drake.

2. Apologies: Michael Slater; Michael Barton; Lynne Barks

3. Presentation (by Jane Francis re: St Nicholas Fayre) and discussion with the Pastoral Covenant Team

Jane reported that events have been hugely delayed this year. Various things have been set in motion, but as an organisation they haven't received the same level of funding this year so it will be a scaled down event. The Fayre will be held on Friday December 3rd (5 – 9 p.m.) and Saturday 4th (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) On Friday the stall holders will set up as before – the organisers may need to consider greater distances between stalls in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. A consequence of this is that it is likely there will not be room for entertainment inside church – they are looking at having a stage outside the West Door, and are going to approach e.g. UAH to see if their band might perform, and primary schools to invite children to sing.

There is a lantern parade planned. Carol said that she and Micki (Deanery youth and children's worker) have planned to run a lantern-making workshop, possibly in the children's corner, at Tracey Carter's 'Big Bang' event on 4th November.

Jane said that she will have more organising to do this year so Church personnel need to have everything organised inside. If not enough volunteers come forward, Kim offered to ask Junior Choir older members for help inside church. We also discussed the need for first aiders – Carol, Jane and a few others have a current first aid certificate – and where the nearest de-fib machine is.

Regarding charges for use of the church heating and lighting, Tracy proposed that we keep the same nominal amount as last time (generally thought to be about £50). Carol seconded this and all agreed.

We agreed to just sell refreshments, cakes and preserves in church, and Sara will organise a sweet stall.

Carol expressed thanks on behalf of the PCC to Jane for attending the meeting and updating us.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 20th September (recorded by Carol):

Proposer: Carol; Seconder: Various.

All agreed.

5. Matters arising:

None

5(sic). Correspondence:

None to report.

6. Finance:

a) 2021 parish share payments: Kevin raised the issue of when the share is paid. On the parish share report we always seem to be in arrears. Carol explained that this is because the money has to be cleared into the Diocese account before the last day of the month, and we are currently paying it at the beginning of a month. Kevin suggested we just need to be paying it three days earlier than we are. We discussed how the situation may develop if we move towards including the Mid-Elloe group as part of our benefice.

NOTE: Since this meeting Carol has finished paying the parish share for the year - £36,000 in total.

b) Current PCC finances: Carol reported that this is OK at present but she is expecting bills.

c) Access to the bank accounts update: This is still proving difficult but Carol is trying to sort this.

d) Repaying loan from CCLA account: The loan from CCLA hasn't yet been repaid but will be soon. Carol described the advice from the Diocese to spread our money across several companies. She asked for permission to approach a company recommended by the Diocese. Kevin then proposed that we should do this, Sara seconded and all agreed.

e) Online donations etc. Kevin updated us: we have now received our first online donation so the system works! It was agreed that we (All Saints church) need to be more demonstrative about encouraging giving in the parish. We discussed the idea of putting an A6-sized card with the QR code and online donation link, plus an inviting message, at the end of pews. The costs would be negligible. This was agreed by all.

7. Fabric: Mick updated us on the progress of getting quotes for the repair of the monument in the chancel, payment for which has been agreed with Lord Taylor of Holbeach. Also, Mick has cleared out the blockages in the guttering as much as he can. The area near the choir vestry should now be OK, as is the area over the organ, but we've asked for a quote for repairs to the moderate diapason on the Great organ manual as it has recently developed rain damage.

An update on the Bells project is to be given next meeting.

NOTE: Since this meeting the PCC have agreed, via email correspondence, to a quote from Rutland masonry to lay the three ashlar stones left over from the Tower project, as their quote was much lower (at £446 with no additional VAT cost) than that given by Underwood and Weston (£852 plus VAT).

8. PCC matters: Vacancy. Nothing to report yet.

NOTE: Since this meeting the news has been announced that the Revd Sherine Angus has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the benefice of Holbeach and we very much look forward to welcoming her and her family into our church family and wider community. Revd Barbara Hutchinson has been appointed as Rural Dean for the East Elloe deanery, also since this meeting, and again we look forward to working with her in this new role.

9. Children and young people: William Stukeley School update. Sara was not able to go to the last Governor's meeting but did attend both Harvest services and reported that Micki was great in leading them. The staff and children enjoyed coming back into church. (During the discussion it was realised that the school services need to be recorded in the church

services register.) Sara reported that the school is now allowing governors to attend meetings in school.

10. Ministry team and adult education:

a) Pastoral Care Network update: A safeguarding concern was reported but no further action is needed. The network is ticking along nicely under Marion's leadership. She has planned a meeting of the PCN group leaders on 18th October.

b) Adult education and discipleship: Paul Carey-Slater has accepted the invitation to attend the next ministry team meeting to tell ALMs how they can support anyone who may consider becoming an ALM.

c) Resuming care home ministry: The ministry team agreed to suspend all care home visits until after Christmas due to concerns about the rising Covid rate, although they are still continuing home communion.

11. Worship and Music:

a) Future worship pattern: Barry's proposal to change the time of Evensong from 6.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. for a trial period in November and December was discussed. There were good points put forward for and against this and Tracy asked for it to be noted that she would not be able to come to the service at all if it moved to 4 p.m. Eventually Sara proposed we agree to the trial period and review the situation afterwards. Marion seconded this and the proposal was carried on a split vote: 5 for the trial and 2 against, with 2 abstentions.

It was felt that Barry's proposal for the senior choir practice to move from Friday evenings to Saturday mornings was an issue which the choir could decide upon by themselves, as it did not affect the wider church community.

b) Purchase of AV and IT equipment and Wi-fi: Kevin and Kim offered to research suitable companies who can install a new sound system. Carol recommended that we go through the parish buying scheme when we do eventually make a purchase.

c) Barry's contract: Carol reported that the contract has been reinstated as of 1st September 2021. The salary figure is currently £375 pcm. It was agreed that the churchwardens would discuss with Barry the level of raise he would accept.

12. Mission and Outreach:

Resumption of The Gathering: to be deferred to next meeting.

13. Fundraising and social events:

a) Organ Concert update: Everyone agreed that the concert had been a great success. Kevin reported that a total of £1380 had been taken in sales, of which £185 needs to be paid as a fee for the advert in the paper.

b) Light Party: This was planned for Saturday 30th October. Carol has emailed Micki to arrange a meeting to plan the event for our young people. NOTE: owing to illness this event had to be subsequently cancelled.

c) Big Bang shopping event on 4th November: Lynne offered to run a tombola with Kevin and Martin to raise funds for church. It was also agreed that our Christmas services should be promoted at this event.

d) Remembrance parade: As the district council have decided not to hold a parade, the ministry team have decided to hold a service outside at the war memorial at 2 p.m. on Remembrance Sunday. This will be led by Revd Barbara Hutchinson. Carol has spent some considerable time arranging this with Michaela and Caz, and smoothing the waters with the council's clerk and the secretary of the Royal British Legion.

NOTE: Before and after the meeting there was a lot of media attention about the council's cancellation of the parade, and a widely publicised protest led by Harold Payne which resulted in him organising a parade himself. Consequently, our service was rescheduled to 2.30 p.m. and held in church.

e) St. Nicholas Fayre: This had been covered in conversation with Jane at the beginning of the meeting.

f) Possible Art Festival: To be discussed at the next meeting.

g) Platinum Jubilee: I think it was decided that the feedback to come from Michaela should be left until the next meeting for reasons of time being short.

14. Wider Church: I have no details on this.

15. A.O.B.

a) All Souls Day: Michaela asked that we put out a list for people to add names to be included in the service of remembrance on All Souls Day.

b) Sub-Committees: Carol explained that at the next meeting we will be setting up various sub-committees (fund-raising etc.) to be headed up by different members of the PCC. These sub-committees can also include other people not on the PCC.

Next meeting: November 16th starting at 7 p.m. in church.

The meeting closed with the Grace led by Michaela.