

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 14th February, 2023

Present: Kevin Dodd (Lay Chair), Martin Butler, Kim Biggs, Jackie Sheldrake, Michael Goodman, Marion Goodman, Lynne Barks, Judy Kelly, Gill Graper,

Apologies for absence: Revd Sherine Angus, Carol Hellen, Hannah Buck, Michael Barton, Helen Drake,

Non attendance: Sara Buck

Opening Prayers were said.

Review of previous meeting:

- One alteration was made to the Minutes of the previous meeting, which were then approved by all members and signed by Kevin Dodd (Lay Chair)
- Matter arising: An additional amount had been given by Lord Taylor in sponsorship for the Cycle Ride and this had gone directly to the Lincolnshire Churches Trust..
- A question was raised as to whether Sara Buck had been contacted about her non appearance at any meetings or at church services.

Correspondence:

- Email had been received from the Diocese about the retirement, at the end of March, of the Dean of Lincoln.
- Emails had been received from the Diocese explaining the Bishops' thoughts on the issues of Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationship and marriage. The Bishops of our Diocese gave their responses and then included the pastoral letter from all the Bishops of the Church of England summarising the discussions, decisions and responses made and gathered together in *Living in Love and Faith* and *Listening with Love and Faith*. **It was generally agreed at the moment that views had not changed significantly or enough within church doctrine on these matters and therefore still cause a great deal of heartache and disagreement.**
Copies of the letters to be sent to all members of the PCC.

Reports on other church meetings:

- **CTEE** - These meetings are chaired by Revd Luke Smith and attended by representatives from Church of England, Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches. A service had been held in January to celebrate Christian Unity. There are services on 3rd March at St Matthew's, Sutton Bridge and St Mary's, Whaplode for World Day of Prayer; a Prayer Group will meet on 23rd March at Baptist Church, Sutton St James; and the traditional Walk of Witness will be held on Good Friday, starting at the Holbeach Catholic Church.
- **Elloe East Synod meeting** had been held in January. There were several very positive items discussed: all parishes in the Deanery had paid 100% of their Parish Share in 2022, mentioning Holbeach and Fleet in particular who had paid 140% of theirs, due to their commitment in sending the Mary Bass contribution, in addition to what they had originally pledged. The Mary Bass Parishes were reminded that the total of the Mary Bass funding should have been sent to the Diocese on top of the original pledges. The work done by Micki Carey Slater was praised. A huge thank you to Micki was expressed for the significant contribution she is making to mission and outreach with children. Revd Paul Carey Slater is

to become a full time stipendiary priest and he and his wife will be moving to the Fleet Rectory soon. However, members were very disappointed and angry that Mike Ongerth had been told he was to retire in June, leaving 5 parishes without a paid priest. It was agreed that a strongly worded letter should be sent from the Deanery to David Dadswell about the situation and asking for an urgent meeting with him.

It was agreed that whenever meetings had taken place for CTEE or Elloe East Synod a report should be given and recorded in the Minutes.

Vicar's Briefing: (attached copy)

Several items were discussed:

- Initial details for the Stewardship Campaign were greeted very positively. A Proposal was made: **PCC members are committed to the Campaign**
Proposed: Lynne Barks Seconded; Mike Goodman All in favour
- PCC was pleased that the Lent and Easter services were all planned. Kevin and Martin will be producing a poster to advertise all these. Discussion followed about Lent Lunches. Volunteers were needed both to serve the lunches and make the soup. Lynne Barks is coordinating arrangements. A notice will be put on the pew sheet for the coming Sunday. Cost of the lunch will be £3.50 per head, with the collection going to Soldas.
- Free Tea Fridays was accepted as being a good idea, but there were reservations about who would be organising this and would there be enough volunteers to sustain the considerable work and time involved each week. It would be important that the Junior Choir activities could still start on time, after clearing up of the proposed Tea sessions.
- Animal Friendly update – none available, but progress is being made with a Pet Service being organised for 30th April, during Flower Festival.
- Safeguarding – a reminder was given that accidents should be recorded in the Accident Book whenever they happen, even if there seems to be no immediate injury.
- Policies and Procedures It has been suggested that this should be a Deanery wide project. Jackie Sheldrake agreed to help with this.

Treasurer's Report (attached copy)

- Several questions were asked and queries about some items of Income and Expenditure. It was agreed that it would be helpful if Chris Penney could come to the next meeting in March and explain some of the details.
- Thanks were expressed to Chris for his work on the accounts. With the APCM coming in May, PCC would like to see a draft copy of the accounts for 2022 fairly soon. PCC recognise that this may be difficult as Chris only became Treasurer half way through 2022.
- With regard to the APCM a question was asked as to who the Electoral Roll Officer is, as this will need updating.

Churchwarden's Report (attached copy)

- Further to details given about the Home Group, it was noted that the numbers in the groups are increasing and it seems likely that they will continue to do so.
- Questions were raised about the statements made in the section Wednesday morning service. It was stated that numbers at the service have increased considerably. Carol will be asked to clarify the situation with the Co-op funding.
- Sound system is being installed the week of the PCC meeting and is due to be completed and working before the service on 19th February.

- Kim Biggs described what the Juniors had been involved with during the RSPB Bird Watch weekend. This was part of the Eco Challenge.
- PCC very pleased that Meg Newey has agreed to make curtains for the West Door. It was felt that curtains should also be made to go across the Chancel door, as both Eucharistic Assistants and the Choir have complained of the cold and draught in the Chancel area.
Proposal: The door in the Chancel area also needs a curtain and for this to be included in the Faculty for the West Door curtain
Proposed: Kim Biggs Seconded: Mike Goodman All in favour As a temporary measure it was suggested that a foam strip could be put round the door area. Jackie Sheldrake agreed to purchase this.
- **Fabric and Maintenance Log** – Mick Boylan used to enter all jobs and checks made in the Log Book. Jackie Sheldrake is now keeping the records of who is fulfilling the overseeing of jobs, when they are done and if there are any other actions necessary. A folder will be made available in the sacristy. It may be a good idea for the people involved with this to have an occasional meeting and update session.

A.O.B. It was agreed that a collection should be made at all services in the next two to three weeks for the **Turkey/Syria Earthquake Disaster Appeal**. A notice will be put on the pew sheet for each Sunday.

The meeting closed at 21.10 with prayers.

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 14th March at 7.30 p.m.