

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 14th March, 2023

Present: Revd Sherine Angus, Chris Penney (Treasurer), Kevin Dodd (Lay Chair), Martin Butler, Carol Hellen, Jackie Sheldrake, Michael Goodman, Marion Goodman, Lynne Barks, Helen Drake, Michael Barton, Judy Kelly, Gill Graper,

Apologies for absence: Kim Biggs, Hannah Buck

Non attendance: Sara Buck

Opening Prayers were said.

Review of previous meeting:

- The Minutes for the last meeting were signed as being a correct record.
- Hannah Buck has asked to step down from the PCC. She will not seek to renew her membership at the next APCM.
- Jackie reported that she had spoken to Mick Boylan about the foam strip for the door in the Chancel area and this will be addressed by the Saturday Gang when they resume their activities in the coming months.
- Jackie clarified that, although she is recording the fulfilment of items in the Regular Maintenance and Service Plan, she is not involved in keeping the Fabric and Maintenance Diary which is an entirely different system.
- The Maintenance Diary does need to be completed regularly on a weekly or monthly basis to show that jobs are being done around the church. The Diary is kept in the Sacristy.

Treasurer's Report (attached copy)

Chris Penney was in attendance to answer any questions about the Financial Statement presented. The main question asked was to seek clarification about the amount spent on music/ Junior Choir/ Organ. Some information was given to explain the costs – a new keyboard had been purchased; water ingress to the organ pipes on two occasions has required emergency repairs. It may be better to seek a permanent solution to the problem of water ingress in the sacristy, particularly as there is so much electrical equipment in there. A question was raised about who authorises the amount being spent on the items.

Chris raised the question of whether there was an audited set of last year's accounts. These had not been audited and signed off. Whilst Carol Hellen apologised, as she had said she would fulfil this task, it was agreed that it was the responsibility of every PCC member to ensure legal requirements for the Charity Commission are fulfilled. Carol agreed to complete the accounts by the end of March 2023.

It was clear from the figures presented that there is a deficit for 2022 in the region of £14000. The Giving (formally named Stewardship) Campaign is obviously urgently needed.

Chris was thanked for his hard work in keeping the accounts up to date for 2022.

Deanery Administrator

Caz Dennis had been appointed in 2019 and it was clear from the Appraisals she had received, whilst Rosamund was Rural Dean, were good and there were no problems. Holbeach PCC is her

employer, but in recent years there had been a lack of monitoring and communication which had led to a difficult situation where Caz felt unsupported and the users were unhappy with the service given. Kevin (Lay Chair), Chris (Treasurer and Mary Bass Chair), Gill (PCC Secretary) had held separate meetings with the Deanery Priests and also with Caz to discuss the situation and find an agreeable way forward. It is a complex situation as Caz's role has changed since Rosamund left and there are now different priests in place. There would also be a financial problem if too few of the parishes agreed to contribute the funding given by Mary Bass Charity to pay for an administrator. Kevin, Chris and Gill will try to ensure that this situation is resolved to everyone's benefit. ***It was made clear that all this information must remain confidential to members of PCC.***

Question was also raised about Micki Carey Slater's employment as her three year contract and the funding from Mary Bass Charity will come to an end this year. Sherine agreed to contact the Diocese about the situation.

Correspondence:

- Email received from Venerable Aly Buxton about Time to Change together news and developments. The document will be posted in the PCC area of the website.
- A letter had been received from the Society dealing with Church Memorials, giving details about one memorial in the church that was damaged.
- Kim had sent an email, as she could not attend the meeting and explained that she had paid the annual subscription to Deanery Synod funds. Also, it has not been possible to finalise the total for the money raised by Junior Choir following their sleepout event, as one chorister had not brought in their sponsor money yet. She hopes the issue will be resolved soon.

Vicar's Briefing:

- Thanks were expressed to Kevin and Martin for the posters detailing all the services in Holy Week and for Easter.
- From Easter Sunday communion wine will be offered from the chalice, rather than the bread being dipped into the wine. Some people may wish to only receive bread.
- There are three confirmation candidates who are new members of the congregation and who will be confirmed on Easter Saturday at the Cathedral.
- Phillip Meers will be baptised on Easter Sunday in Holbeach.
- Community Group activities are flourishing with bulbs being planted outside the Hub area opposite Tesco. Raised beds are being made and there is good funding support for these activities.
- Lent course is going well.
- Flower Festival arrangements are well in hand. There will be a concert on Saturday evening and a Pet Service on Sunday afternoon.
- A quarter bell peal will be rung on Coronation Day. The All Age Worship service on the following day will have 'Coronation' as its theme. This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.
- The Giving Campaign will run for four weeks, starting after the APCM and be supported by themed sermons during that time.
- There are no Safeguarding issues to report.
- The report on being an Animal Friendly Church, compiled by Helen Drake, is almost complete. It was confirmed that we do not have an Environmental policy and that a notice on the website, to say we have a commitment to animal welfare, will be posted.

- A section of the Passion Narrative was recorded by members of the congregation to go to the Diocese. The whole passion narrative is being produced by the College of St Hugh for the Diocese and will be shown at Holbeach on Palm Sunday.
- A special thank you was expressed to Carol for her work as Churchwarden.

Churchwarden's Report:

Projects:

Home group: the Thursday evening group is currently doing the Lent course written by the Diocese looking at Time to Change Together.

Wednesday Morning: service attendees being the core members of this group and are currently doing the Diocesan Lent course also.

Lent Lunches: are currently underway but initial feedback is the attendance has not been what it has been in previous years.

Eco challenge: This is still underway.

Animal Friendly status: Helen Drake has taken the lead with this application, which has been completed.

Fair Trade status: The church continues to work towards this goal.

Flower Festival: Christine Penney is leading on the organization of this, supported by myself, Sherine and Les. The theme has been agreed of a Fenland Scene.

Fabric:

The new audio system and screen has been successfully installed, as Kevin Dodd dealt with this, he might like to update the PCC on relevant information.

The drain pipes have been looked at, which also resulted in some more repairs to the roof.

The 5-year electrical testing had been completed.

The fire extinguishers have been tested and a new fire worthy certificate has been issued.

Challenges:

As a PCC we now need to start to look at scheduling some specific tasks mentioned in the Quinquennial Report, so I would like to have a fabric committee meeting in the near future to look at this.

Digital Counter Reading unfortunately is broken, and I need to sort out a replacement.

It has been agreed that I will contact all Churchwardens with East Elloe and invite them for a Coffee and a Chat soon, to start a local support group as we move through the current changes with the church, this fits with our aspiration to be a Type 1 Church.

Churchwarden position: I think that it is only right that I give notice to the PCC officially of my intention to stand down from this role at the APCCM this year and would like thank everyone for their support and the privilege of being your Churchwarden for the last four years.

A.O.B.

- Lynne Barks reminded members that any accident must be reported in the Accident Book. This can be found with the First Aid Box on the pew outside the Mary Bass Room.

- Lynne also reported that the lock on the large wooden entrance door was sometimes difficult to open. It may be necessary to call in a Locksmith to rectify this.

The meeting closed at 20.50 with prayers.

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday 18th April at 7.30 p.m.