

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

PCC Minutes Tuesday, 13th June 2023

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

Apologies for absence:, Roger Jennings, Helen Drake, Michael Goodman

Opening Prayers were said.

Review of previous meeting:

- New members of the PCC were welcomed
- Sherine has contacted the Diocese about Micki Carey-Slater's contract which needs renewing
- No invoice has been presented yet for the lightning conductor work

Correspondence:

- Information had been received from the Diocese about the Energy Footprint Tool. Churchwardens will deal with this.
- The latest update on TTCT, 'Living Generously' had been received. Copies will be sent by email to all PCC members.

Vicar's Briefing:

. It seems as though much has happened since the APCM in May. Firstly, we welcome 2 new church wardens and Margaret to the PCC, and welcome back to everyone else.

A reminder that we are here to serve the community of All Saints and our role, as PCC, is to take the lead for the spiritual and maintenance oversight for the church.

Now that we have 2 church wardens in place, our hope is that the maintenance and indeed, the forward planning of tackling work from the quinquennial can begin to take place. It is anticipated that Roger will be taking the lead on this.

Giving Campaign

This has run as a sermon series over 4 weeks and the focus has been on God's generosity to us and how that impacts us as we show our gratitude. Whilst of course, the aim has been to increase giving, as this is desperately needed, it has been driven by an understanding that our giving is an act of faith and should be rooted in prayer and a desire to serve God rather than a sense of obligation. There have been a number of positive comments about this, people saying that it has encouraged them to look at all they have, that it has been different to other giving campaigns and that they have been challenged to explore what they are giving. The campaign ended with some beautiful booklets put together by Kevin and Martin and also Parish Giving Scheme packs.

There is further work to be done for the wider community, which will involve a leaflet being delivered to every household in Holbeach offering them the opportunity to become a 'Friend of All Saints'. This level of membership is for those who value the church but would not necessarily wish to attend. For an annual amount of £50 they will be able to become a friend of All Saints, they will be sent flyers for our services at Advent and Easter, an annual newsletter and have sponsorship of the flood lights for a name of their choice once during the year. It is hoped that this will be an attractive proposition and encourage people who value having the church there to offer their support. The leaflet will highlight the needs of the building in terms of maintenance and costs and the role of the church in the community and the things that we do.

The Giving Campaign will have a final recap session in September following the 'Community Showcase' weekend. This also ties in with Harvest as an opportunity to thank God for all we are given and review the outcome of the giving campaign.

Upcoming Events:

- **Medieval Festival 1st/2nd July.** Once again Holbeach will be hosting a medieval festival. We have the Lincolnshire Guild of Spinners and Weavers booked to attend for the weekend as they did last year. Lindon Secker will also be displaying his photos. The dragon from the Flower Parade will make an appearance. Merry Noyse are booked for the All-Age Worship service on the Sunday morning. *Refreshments will be served on Saturday 10.00 – 4.00 and on Sunday 12.00 - 4.00. Advertising was discussed – details will appear on Facebook, on pew sheets and in the brochure being produced. Also in the church there will be a Raffle – Lynne offered to put together 3 hampers for prizes. There will also be a 'Water and Wine' stall. Sign up sheets for helpers need to be ready asap.*
- **Community Showcase, 9th September.** This is in the early planning stages but will be a day held in All Saints inviting community groups (such as guides, scouts, Holbeach Town Band etc.) and local charities (community larder, chosen, Boxes of hope etc.) to have a table in church. We shall also have a table for 'Friends of All Saints'. The hope is that it will be mutually beneficial for all attending, a one-stop-shop for people who might be interested in volunteering or being involved in their community to come along at the beginning of September – often a time when people are contemplating something new. *Refreshments will be available in church for this event. Kim reminded the PCC that this is the same day as the Annual Cycle Ride.*
- **Quiz Night at the Football Club with Raffle:** Lynne agreed to book this for the third Wednesday in September as it was a very successful event last time.
- **Christmas Extravaganza – Parish Council need to decide on date for this annual event outside the church.** Our contribution inside the church will need some careful planning. I have already been asked about when we will be taking bookings for craft stalls as apparently the summer would be the usual time to do this as diaries fill up. Due to the number of people who attended last year the church was packed and at times it was not safe. We shall need to complete a careful risk assessment and look at ways of providing a separate exit to the entrance in order to keep people safe, possibly a one-way system around the event.

The idea of another Christmas Tree Festival was discussed as it was very popular last year.

Generally the PCC felt that an Arts and Crafts Festival in November would not be a good idea with so much else being organised. For the future it was felt that any painters who wished to display their works should have a table on the same basis as the craft stall participants.

Visit from William Stukeley KS2 pupils – a very successful Sensory Workshop had been held in the church, led by Sherine and Micki Carey-Slater. 180 pupils had attended in three different groups during the morning on 8th June.

- **Clive Turner – Chair Holbeach Parish Council:** He is very open to new ideas and wishes to work collaboratively with Sherine and All Saints. The way forward looks very positive.
- **Other suggestions discussed:**
- Leslie suggested he contact a couple of music groups: Wandering Minstrels and the Stamford Town Band to see if they might be willing to give a concert for the church funds (this could go towards the funds needed to restore the West Window).

Concert on the Saturday evening of the Flower Festival was appreciated, but did not draw as many people to it as we might have hoped.

Might it be possible to use the screen to show films?

Fun Evening on the lines of a television panel show?

It is important to offer as many opportunities as possible and a good mixture of activities to bring people into the Church. This will be particularly useful when encouraging people to become 'Friends of All Saints'.

Director of Music

With Barry's resignation I have put together a job description and person specification for the role. I have attached that to the documents for your information. I am working with Kim, Barry, our church wardens and Kevin and Martin, in putting together a document that we hope to get out as soon as possible.

It was agreed to advertise the post on 'Organists On Line' which is free or for £100 there can be an advert on the front page for 3 months. It is hoped to appoint someone by the beginning of September.

It was agreed that the salary offered should be £5000 – in line with RSCM guidance.

A leaving gift for Barry was discussed and will need to be organised soon.

Priorities

My priorities for us as a church and PCC this year are to continue with welcome as an expression of God's love for all, embedded into the culture of all that we do and are. We need to develop a 5-year mission action plan going forwards and one suggestion for this would be to book another PCC autumn away day. Hopefully it won't be a super-spreader event this year!

Finally, a huge thank you to you all, as I know you are aware it hasn't been the easiest few months for me personally and your support has made the world of difference.

Stewardship Campaign

The month of themed sermons had promoted many good comments and feedback had been very positive. A good number of the Parish Share Giving packs had been taken. Kevin and Martin were thanked for the excellent brochure they have produced to explain and promote the Giving Campaign. All Saints is very grateful to the Mary Bass Charity for giving £4000 towards the administration and advertising needs of the Campaign.

The PCC agreed with the idea of delivering a leaflet to every household in Holbeach, promoting a 'Friends of All Saints' group that Sherine had outlined in her briefing.

Kevin and Martin would welcome ideas for an advertising poster they will produce to give wide publicity to everything that will be happening during the next few months.

Safeguarding

No incidents have been reported. Sherine will meet with Caz to go through the Safeguarding Action Plan and ensure it is up to date.

It would be helpful if a sign was put on the door to Caz's Office to say when she will not be there, on days when she would normally be in the Office.

Churchwarden's Report:

The Advert for a new Musical Director is well underway and a meeting is being held tomorrow to discuss the workable first draft so it can be published by the end of the month. This will hopefully capture retiring music teachers, school organists or other musicians.

The visitation service went well, and I was sworn in as one of your wardens. Roger is to be sworn in at a later date.

The main focal points we are addressing is the issue with the floodlights and getting existing bulbs/units replaced with LED's. Roger has corresponded with Chris and Kim over the matter. An electrician is attending, with Kim, this month to carry out the PAT testing and the floodlights will be discussed with him as he is already aware of what is required.

Not related to the fabric but needs addressing is the problems with the giving machine and its lack of connectivity when needed. We understand Kevin is investigating this with the supplier now that he has had the information. If this has been resolved, I apologise for putting this down.

The other matters that require addressing are:

- 1) The water leak over the choir vestry when we had the heavy rain the other week. Hopefully this will be investigated when the gutters etc are inspected in a couple of months.
- 2) The funding of the restoration of the West window; the condition can only get worse.
- 3) Sherine has had a meeting with the parish council about the upkeep of the church yard. We understand the junior choir are involved with the eco church award too and that some of it is a designated wildlife area. The rose garden could certainly do with a weed and it is my understanding that there was once a team of Saturday volunteers keeping it tidy. This is something that has been resurrected.

The Ecclesiastical insurance is due this month and Chris has been approached as to the value of the new Visual/Audio equipment so that it can be added to the policy.

Treasurer's Report

1. 2021 Accounts – Carole W and I are still wading through these. M Boylan has supplied some information relating to the works to the Tower which will plug some gaps. There still remains work to do.
2. 2022 Accounts – These are complete and can go for audit once the 2021 ones are complete.
3. 2023 – Figures are up to the 9th June 2023
 1. Income to date - **£45,960.91**
 2. Expenditure to date **£65,880.57**
 3. Excess of expenditure to income to date **£19,919.66**
 4. The new sound system has been paid for
 5. Mary Bass have issued a grant for 60% of the cost of the sound system and noticeboard.
 6. The insurance premium for the year has been paid - £10,661.57 – an 11% increase as compared with last year.
 7. An application to Mary Bass for a grant for 75% of the insurance premium has been made.
 8. The Flower Festival raised £2,036.43. Note: There are some “Sum -Up” payments to analyse and allocate to the Flower Festival which will increase income. There are also expenses to analyse and allocate against the FF income.
 9. Share paid to date £12,000. – Should be £21,667.00 – Shortfall £9,667.00
 10. Current balances
 1. Current account - £4,116.17
 2. Deposit account - £17,819.07

Chris was thanked for keeping the PCC up to date with the financial statement presented. Sherine said that, although initially the 'Excess of expenditure to income' did not look healthy, once grants from Mary Bass have been received it will look more positive, with a shortfall closer to £3000. Sherine had contacted the Diocese regarding the shortfall in our payment of the Parish Share on a monthly basis, but they seemed happy, as long as the total amount is paid by the middle of January 2024.

It was agreed that a small sub-committee of PCC members should meet with Chris to discuss the best way forward. The following members agreed to be in that group: Sherine, Jackie, Kevin and Roger.

A.O.B.

- Kevin reported that it would be possible to have one more Deanery Synod Rep from All Saints, due to the numbers on our Electoral Roll. The Churchwardens are also entitled to go to these meetings. No other member of the PCC put their name forward at the meeting.
- Jackie asked if she could now hand over the Maintenance records to the Churchwardens and it was agreed that Roger should receive these.
- Fabric Committee is still in place and Mick has met with Roger to discuss a number of items.
- A special service will be held in church in August, probably the 2nd Tuesday, for care home residents.
- Judy expressed thanks for Matthew Simons' excellent trumpet playing for the Sunday evening service on 11th June.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. with prayers.

Next Meeting Tuesday, 11th July 7.30 p.m.