

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 11th July 2023

Present: Revd Sherine Angus, Roger Jennings, Michael Barton, Kim Biggs, Helen Drake, Gill Graper,

Apologies for absence:, Marion and Michael Goodman, Judy Kelly, Lynne Barkes, Kevin Dodd, Martin Butler, Leslie Crowson, Jackie Sheldrake, Margaret Whaley

Opening Prayers were said.

Review of previous meeting:

It was made clear that Minutes of meetings were available to PCC members on the protected area of the website each month. After the following meeting, when they are signed as correct, they are available to everyone and there is a folder of printed copies in the church.

Correspondence:

None had been received.

Vicar's Briefing:

It has been another busy month with the Medieval Festival at the beginning of July. Whilst quiet, there was a steady flow of people and we raised just short of £500.

Linda Beverley-Stone, who was completing a year's discernment course with the diocese to explore ordained ministry has been advised that they do not believe ordained ministry is the right path for her. This is, understandably difficult news for her and she is being supported by the diocese and myself. Linda has also stepped down from Junior Choir, but is able to attend the concert at the end of the week and will be presented with a certificate as thanks for her service to the choir.

School Services. July sees the end of the school term and Micki and I are very busy with school leaver's services. During this services every child leaving school is presented with the Scripture Union book, 'It's your move', this is funded by Mary Bass.

Strategic Leadership Development Programme. The SLDP is run nationally by the church and I was asked by Bishop Stephen if he could nominate me in December last year. Each diocese is allowed to nominate up to 3 people for this

programme. After a series of interviews, a psychometric test and a meeting with a psychologist, I found out last week that I have been offered a place on the course. Firstly I would like to make it clear I am NOT leaving! It is a 2.5 year course which amounts to 2 nights away each year and 1 week long pilgrimage during the whole course, there is also a short placement with a diocese senior leadership team. The content of the course is based around leading self and leading others and organisations, there is also a mission project to be carried out. All of these things should benefit All Saints.

West Window. We have received some wonderful news as we are anticipating a further £17500 donation from the Temple family to go towards the repair of the West Window. I have spoken with Chris Penney, and whilst any quinquennial work will be funded up to £16000 or 60%, whichever is the lowest, he thinks that Mary Bass will take the West Window as a separate project and will fund 60% of the work. Renewed quotes are needed, but the hope is that we can send an application to the October Mary Bass meeting to secure funding.

The future of this project depends on receiving the donation offered by the Temple family, as well as receiving 60% of the cost from the Mary Bass Charity. The latter has been confirmed, but not the former. Revised quotations for the project will be asked for to ensure that the costs of repairing the window and the scaffolding required will all be covered.

Director of Music, this post has been advertised and we have received one applicant so far. The interview date is set for the 16th August 2023. After discussion with Barry, it has been agreed that we can have something to mark his retirement. It was decided with the ministry and mission team that we would have a prosecco afternoon tea prior to his last Evensong on the 27th August.

A congregation collection needs to be publicised. The choir is also making a separate collection for Barry and Pam.

Annual Leave. I shall be on leave for 2 weeks from the 24th July, all services are covered.

Growing Together Holbeach. This project was started with the hope that we would secure some land from the District Council. This is looking less likely now, although we have had 2 enormous raised beds created by Long Sutton Men's Shed and paid for by Lincolnshire Co-op. It had been agreed that they would be at tonic Health, but despite prior agreement they are not happy for them to stay there long term. So the question is where should they go and what should be done? The aim of the project was to have space for people to grow

vegetables, to experience the physical and mental health benefits of working outside, to grow things that they chose and have a sense of autonomy over what was produced. Alongside the plan was for a cooked, communal meal during the day and some tuition around cooking on a budget. We have support from Lincoln University Food Hub, who can provide tuition around cooking, working alongside the community larder and the possibility of people attending for a meal on a Friday, links with social prescribing and also the Methodist church alongside.

With a new Parish Council in operation who are eager to work with us, I am increasingly wondering if we should look at siting the raised beds in our church yard. To explore making the church yard a community space for growing, enjoyment and rest.

Possibilities would include, putting the raised beds in place, a sensory garden, a small potting shed for tools, etc. running the group on a Friday morning so that people can then walk to the Reading rooms for lunch.

It is something that would require careful thought (and obviously the agreement of the Parish Council, although from speaking with Justine, she feels that it is our land, so whilst we would need to tell them and it would be easier with their agreement, we could choose to do this). Something to discuss during our meeting.

Following a lengthy discussion about possible places to put the two raised beds that had been made, it was agreed that Sherine should contact the Parish Council to seek their views on placing the beds on the area of grass beside the church. A faculty would be required for the project to move forward. Concerns were raised about the security for what might be grown in them and one suggestion was that a variety of herbs might be a good idea. Whilst the original discussions and responses to the placement of the beds had been optimistic, these had ultimately not come to fruition.

Safeguarding

No incidents had been reported.

Gill will speak to Caz about the necessity of actually seeing copies of certificates (in person or by email) when digital training had been undertaken and for seeing the DBS certificates. Records of the certificates and renewal dates should also be recorded.

Churchwarden's Report:

The recruitment advert for the post of a new Musical Director and Organist has been placed, is live on 'Organists On Line' and thus far we have received one

application. *The interview will take place on 16th August, at which the choir will be participating in a practical way.*

The portable electrical appliances have been PAT tested and the floodlights inspected for changing over to LED lighting. We are awaiting a quotation for the latter from the electrician prior to submitting this to the PCC for approval. The Church Warden wish to thank Kim for her valued assistance in meeting the electrician.

The roof CCTV is currently experiencing issues with connectivity and despite the GBSG technicians attending the site the fault could not be repaired and we are currently awaiting a report as to what the problem is and a quotation for the works. I have chased GBSG to be advised that the manager for the relevant department is currently on leave, will return on 10th July and we should receive this information during that week.

There is also a somewhat minor problem with the toilet pump insofar as the red warning light is glowing. An engineer has attended the site and checked the waste levels and the pump and all are working correctly. He believes the fault showing is due to an electrical/insulation breakdown issue however the pump is quite old now and a replacement should be considered. He was advised that no drilling of, or fixing to, the church fabric would be considered otherwise a faculty would need to be submitted in advance for the work. Consequently he was requested to quote to remove the existing wiring where it passes through the church wall and replace with new and replace the pump. We are currently awaiting this information. *Roger will contact Pumping and Drainage company as regards the best way forward. This could cost in the region of £1000.*

Proposal: PCC agree that whatever work needs to be done should be carried out

Proposed: Kim Biggs Seconded: Helen Drake All in favour

Mick Boylan has advised me that he wishes to step down from being responsible for the entries into the Book of Remembrance and therefore we need to seek someone who has the necessary Calligraphy skills to maintain this vital work.

The giving machine is still experiencing problems with its connectivity and frustratingly is often preventing the church from receiving electronic donations. Perhaps Kevin can comment further as to his progress in attempting to resolve this matter.

With regard to the west window there has been an email received into the wardens@ account intimating that a further donation would be forthcoming

from the same donor who provided the £10k last year. Despite replying to the gentleman in question we have not (a) been able to make contact with him verbally (b) received a reply to the wardens' response or (c) received the second donation into the church account. Currently Chris is following this up as he knows the family on a personal level.

Roger, along with Clare Stupples, attended a meeting on 6th July with the Royal British legion and Local Council at Coubro Chambers to discuss the arrangements for this year's Remembrance Day parade and service. As it currently stands this year it is to be held in the morning with a parade to the Remembrance Garden for 1050 hrs, the silence at 1100 hrs followed by the church service at 1130. The organising committee have a large amount of work to do to finalise the arrangements and further details will be released in due course.

Treasurer's Report

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| Balances | Current account | £12,940.00 |
| | Deposit account | £17,919.00 |
| | Total | £30,859.00 |

Note: £10,000 of that is designated funds for West Window repairs so only £20,000 available to spend.

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| Year to date | Income | £71,780.00 |
| | Expenditure | £87,034.00 |

Insurance for year paid and MB grant towards it received.

Share paid to date £15,000.00 – (ought to be £26,000 if £52,000 to be paid in whole year)

1st instalment of MB financial support for year due anytime (likely to be £3600 i.e., 50% of total annual grant).

I will aim to have a fuller report (and perhaps attend meeting) for your September meeting.

Chris Penney

Concerns were raised about the excess of Expenditure over Income and Sherine has contacted the Diocese about our Parish Share. Mary Bass has changed the

way they contribute to the Parish Share through churches, as only two churches last year passed on the MB contribution as an additional amount (All Saints being one of them). It is now clear that we would not be able to reach the £52000 originally promised, as All Saints will be receiving a smaller contribution from Mary Bass.

A.O.B.

- **Chairs in Choir Vestry** – accident reported regarding a choir member whose chair collapsed and they fell back. They were not injured, but obviously shaken.

Metalwork fastening underneath some of the chairs was weakening. This has happened a couple of times before. The chairs support children easily and most adults well, but for anyone with mobility problems who can't move easily to sit down, stand up or move about (e.g. to pick something up from the floor while sitting) and therefore sit/move more heavily, the chairs are not sturdy enough. PCC asked to consider purchasing (or getting funding for) some new chairs to replace them.

It was agreed that any of the chairs that are broken or look in a weakened state should be removed from the Choir Vestry. Reasonably priced, suitable replacements from online sites would be investigated and bought to ensure there are enough chairs in the Choir Vestry.

- **The meeting closed at** with prayers.

Next Meeting Tuesday, 12th September, 7.30 p.m.