

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 12th September 2023

PCC MINUTES

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

Apologies for absence:, Roger Jennings, Revd Sherine Angus, Michael Barton, Les Crowson

Opening Prayers were said.

Review of previous meeting: The Minutes were accepted as being a true record and signed by the Lay Chair.

Correspondence: The latest document from the Diocese re TTCT had been received: 'Living Generously' and a copy will be sent to all PCC members.

Vicar's Briefing:

Director of Music

We interviewed for a director of music in August, but sadly were not successful. We have renewed our advert and shall keep advertising in the hope that we find someone. In the meantime, Kim has agreed to take many of the services and David Shepherd and Richard Diggle have also offered their services to fill in when necessary. Kim's generosity in supporting the music at All Saints is very much appreciated at this time.

Community Showcase

As I write this this event has yet to take place. However, it is hoped that it will provide an opportunity for organisations, groups and charities to gather together providing a one-stop shop for those interested in volunteering or becoming involved in their local community. It is an ideal event for the church to hold due to its location and the space that we can offer. It will also bring people into the church who may not normally come and provides an opportunity to promote 'friends of all saints'. If successful, the plan would be to hold this event annually.

This had been a success in terms of the number of organisations represented, but the general public footfall had been disappointing. It had been well advertised on social media and posters put up in local shops. It may be a good idea to get more coverage in local newspapers. A suggestion that a Heritage Open Day Event could be incorporated next year during the weekend of Heritage Open Days and this would be advertised throughout Lincolnshire. These Open Days are often quite well attended.

Friends of All Saints

Thank you to all who have helped this come to fruition and in particular to Kevin and Martin for producing the booklets that showcase our church so well. Our aim with Friends of All Saints is that those who would not necessarily attend church but value the building can contribute towards the upkeep in a way that values their contribution. There will be a mail shot of fold out leaflet, similar to the booklet, to all postcodes within the parish.

All agreed that a huge debt of thanks is owed to Kevin and Martin for the creation and production of the booklets. It is recognised that we must all be proactive in continually promoting this scheme for its success. When services take place where many non-regulars participate eg schools events, Remembrance Day, Crib service and Baptisms, it will be important to continually distribute the booklets.

Finance

Our financial situation, whilst not desperate, is not ideal. There is work that needs to be done, such as the leading around the windows above the organ and potentially some work on one of the bells. The cost of having the flood lights on could be reduced by changing the bulbs. Roger has managed to source £400 of funding towards this from the district council and my proposal would be that the lights are switched off until we can find sufficient funding from other sources to change the bulbs. I think that by switching them off now, before the evenings really draw in, it will be less noticeable than turning them off in the middle of darker nights.

Mark Rose has been in touch. He will be contacting Chris Penney to make an urgent appointment to work with him to complete the accounts for 2021 and 2022.

Parish Share, Chris has received the first payment from Mary Bass as a contribution to our parish share. A vote needs to be held that we are happy for that money to be sent to the diocese. As this was our commitment last year, I hope that the PCC will agree this year, that the money from Mary Bass that is for our parish share is used for that purpose. I have made it clear to Chris that our parish covenant for 2023 was £38k with the additional amount, taking it to £52k, dependent on the money received from Mary Bass. As that commitment from Mary Bass has now changed, it appears that we shall be considerably short of the £52k offered to the diocese. I have met with and spoken to Ann Treacy, director of finance for the diocese, and she is aware that this may be the situation with regards to our parish share. On advice from Chris, we have not altered our covenant agreement as there may be changes in what Mary Bass choose to contribute before the end of the year.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the serious state of our church finances. It was made clear from the August bank statement that our spending in that month alone had far exceeded the income. The Giving Scheme had not resulted in a large increase in regular contributions from the congregation and we are behind with our Covenanted payments to the Diocese.

Concerns were also expressed about the accounts for 2021 and 2022 not yet being audited, but PCC is hugely grateful to Chris Penney for the massive task he has taken on in bringing these accounts up to date. It is hoped that the accounts will soon be ready for the auditors and we are fully supportive of everything that Chris is doing for All Saints as its Treasurer.

PROPOSAL: PCC agrees to put on hold any Covenant payment to the Diocese, any unnecessary expenditure or new initiative, until further discussion at the October meeting.

Proposed: Kevin Dodd Seconded: Michael Goodman All voted in favour

PROPOSAL: PCC agrees that floodlights should be switched off and any work on changing to LED bulbs should be put on hold.

Proposed: Kim Biggs Seconded: Lynne Barks All voted in favour

Clare Stupples needs to be told of this decision so that she can inform any sponsors for floodlighting of the situation.

Remedial work to the roof and cills above the sacristy £1176.00 + VAT, as well as the additional gutter & down pipe cleaning are approved and should go ahead as proposed and outlined in the Churchwarden's report.

Christmas/Advent

Our Christmas and Advent services have been planned and details given to Caz for the rotas. A separate sheet of details will be sent to all PCC members.

There was a lengthy discussion about the Christmas Tree/Craft event which will take place on 2nd December. In the light of recent events there are concerns about who should be organising such

events and how people in the congregation, but not on the PCC, might be able to make a larger contribution in terms of organising and helping with money raising events. It would be a good idea to have a small Events Committee, not necessarily PCC members or even regular church members, who would be willing to take on the role of organisation. The PCC do not think it should be something that our priest is responsible for organising, as she has so many other commitments in terms of worship and pastoral care. When helpers are needed to man stalls and refreshments it may be a good idea for someone to ask people individually, rather than expect them to sign a list on the table at the back of church.

Children's and Youth Worker

Micki has taken a new role with the diocese providing strategic support to the development of children's and youth work, this will be for 3 days a week. Consequently, Micki will be reducing her hours as deanery youth worker to 2 days a week. Her role title will change to Mary Bass Children's and Youth worker and the plan is that deanery youth workers will be put in place for the larger 'super-deaneries' as part of TTCT. Micki will continue to be employed by Holbeach PCC and her salary paid for by Mary Bass. The reduction in hours and change in role title will mean that Micki's work is only in schools and churches affiliated with Mary Bass.

Churchyard

Once again I have been in frequent contact with the Parish Council with regards to the churchyard. They formed a gardening group, which caused all sorts of conflict within the Parish Council as whilst formed by councillors it was not regarded as a Parish Council group! However, after a considerable number of emails it was agreed that this group could work in the churchyard. They did so on Saturday morning and have made a good start on weeding the flowerbeds etc. The wooden tubs are to be replaced back on the circular paving slabs and the broken tubs to be replaced. The plan is also that the area on the South side of the church is cut back twice yearly as per the wild flower management plan. This has yet to happen this year and appears to be a misunderstanding that will hopefully be rectified shortly. Jackie, from Shotsholt nursery is also spending Sunday mornings in the churchyard working and is giving her time (and plants) free of charge.

Concerns were raised about the state of the churchyard and particularly about the areas of wildflowers. Generally, there has been some improvement in recent weeks and it is hoped that the Saturday Gang might be reformed.

Remembrance

The plan is to hold this on the morning of the 12th November, there is again, much conflict around this, as may have been seen in the local press. Harold will not be having his procession as he has the last 2 years and the Parish council are hoping to take over his morning road closure for the High Street. This has yet to be fully confirmed, but at present it is expected that the morning service at All Saints will be around 11.30am following the act of remembrance at 11am.

Safeguarding: *Nothing to report*

Churchwarden's Report:

"Following an inspection of the nave wall and chancel roof above the organ pipes on 11th August we have now received the quotation from the lead worker proposed by Peter Slinger(Architect) and known to Chris Penney as follows;

Quotation allows:

- Supply code 7 sand cast lead, to industry standards. • Fabricate and install lead to 2 No cills as shown.
- Dress to detail.
- point with traditional lime mortar.

Complete for the sum of: £1176.00 + VAT

I have spoken to Peter Slinger regarding the above work and before proceeding with this, subject to PCC approval, he is meeting with me on 15th September to view the area and proposed remediation to ensure that it will cure the problem.

I will need to speak to the Diocese regarding a potential Faculty application for this work and this I will do upon my return from holiday. Sherine has kindly given me the necessary contact details and I hope this can be resolved as soon as possible to hopefully prevent further water ingress over the organ pipes. On the assumption that Peter Slinger is satisfied with the proposed works can I respectfully propose that the PCC approve the above expenditure for the repair please?

I would like to propose that the gutter and down pipe cleaning frequency is increased from 3 times per annum to 4 times per annum to try and prevent the build up of tree debris within and thus causing blockages with consequential water ingress over the choir vestry.

The repairs, previously authorised by the PCC, to replace the wiring and junction box for the toilet are being carried out on 15th September.

With regard to the suggested change of the floodlights to LED bulbs I have contacted the District Council and they have offered us £400 towards the total costs of £2651.30 plus VAT for this work on the proviso that we can raise the balance of the funds necessary.

I am still awaiting the updated quotations from Peter Slinger for the renovation of the West window and the associated scaffolding/access costs but having spoken to him recently I anticipate the receipt thereof shortly.

Lastly I would like to recommence the Saturday work gang to try and maintain the areas of the churchyard that are our responsibility as the Local Council are keen to seek volunteers to help them maintain their areas of responsibility. There has been some exchanges of views in the 'Spotted Holbeach' section of Facebook recently."

There was a vote of thanks given for the huge number of tasks that Roger Jennings has undertaken in the past few weeks with so many maintenance tasks to oversee at present. The PCC is very grateful for his efficiency and professionalism. Certain jobs must go ahead despite our financial problems.

Treasurer's Report *Financial matters were discussed and minuted in an earlier section*

1. current account	£6,918.60
2. deposit account	£37,962.89
3. CCLA	£70,000.00 (approx.)

Note this includes the following grants from MB.

1. £5,200.00 which is 50% of the amount being made available this calendar year to help parishes meet their covenants to the diocese. As the "MB rules" stand at present the balance of £5,200 will only be paid when All Saints have paid £46,800 to the diocese.
2. £4,003.00 administration grant. In previous years this has been passed to the deanery help pay for the deanery administrator. PCC will need to resolve if this amount is to be passed onto the deanery.

Other notes.

1. £28,000 of the total funds available are designated for the repairs to the West window.
2. In the absence of the approved 2020 accounts, which should detail them, there may be other monies that are in other designated/restricted funds e.g., the F Bass fund. (where was the shortfall on the cost of the works to the tower paid from?) thereby reducing the amount that is available to pay day to day costs.

A.O.B.

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

Next Meeting Tuesday, 10th October 7.30 p.m.