

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 9th January, 2024

PCC MINUTES

Present: Revd Sherine Angus, Marion Goodman, Michael Goodman, Kim Biggs, Jackie Sheldrake, Judy Kelly, Roger Jennings, Michael Barton, Kevin Dodd, Les Crowson, Martin Butler, Lynne Barkes, Helen Drake, Gill Graper

Apologies for absence: Margaret Whaley,

The meeting opened with prayer

Review of previous meeting: The Minutes of the November meeting were accepted as being a true record and signed by Revd Sherine Angus.

Matters arising:

1. The Advent course had been successful so it was agreed that a similar style course would be organised for the period of Lent
2. Chris Penney asked that the accounts for 2023 should be audited by Bulley Davey.

RESOLUTION A

3. *All Resolutions taken at a meeting will be printed on a separate sheet and with a reference letter within the text of the Minutes.*
4. The PCC was asked to formally recognise that Marion Goodman will minister as an ALM.

Resolution B

5. The Finance Committee will meet soon to discuss the financial situation. Members of this Committee are: Revd Sherine Angus, Roger Jennings, Chris Penney and Kevin Dodd.

Correspondence: none

Vicar's Briefing:

First of all, thank you to all who took part in the services over the Advent/Christmas period last year. Over December we welcomed hundreds of children into church from all the schools in Holbeach; all the care homes received a Christmas service; and we provided a place of worship to both celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas, in addition to space for lament and loss.

Attendance at both the Crib and Christingle service were up by over 40% which I think is testament to the work that is carried out in and with our local schools.

Straight back to it on the 2nd January with a mission and ministry team meeting. This was a really useful time and we have ensured that there is a schedule for the Lent and Easter services (only 6 weeks to Lent!) and looked at missional events we can do during the year.

The Christmas Extravaganza was a huge success and saw an enormous footfall through the church. Thanks to Gill for steering that.

As we move into January, there is much to be done. The finance committee need to meet in order to look at our parish-wide mail drop and also to put together a letter explaining our financial situation, to all members of the electoral roll.

As you will have seen, thanks to Roger's hard work, with the support of Chris, there is now scaffolding in place and work on the West window will begin next week.

We have the possibility of starting a messy breakfast and I am looking at that for the third Sunday of the month at 9am. One of the Baptism family parents from last year is an ex-primary school teacher and has offered to support with that, so I shall follow that up.

Kim and I shall be looking at going into more schools locally to promote Junior Choir.

I have spoken to Susan Peach about the possibility of exploring lay ministry and she is beginning the new discovery course at St Hild Lincoln in February.

Already this week I have had an enquiry for an adult baptism and for 2 confirmations.

I would like to arrange another PCC Away Day to look at mission planning and what next for All Saints.

Prayers of Love and Faith:

Sherine had prepared the following summary of the lengthy document that had been accepted by General Synod.

Since December it has been permitted to use the prayers of love and faith within regular services of worship such as a service of Holy Communion or Evensong. It is hoped that they will soon be available as a standalone service, but this has not yet been commended by the Bishops as it involves changes to Canon B2 and authorisation by General Synod who next meet in February 2024.

The decision around whether or not a church uses the prayers as currently permitted rests with the incumbent; however, this is to be discussed with the PCC and to be in accordance with the traditions and sensitivities of the local context.

As a registered inclusive church, my feeling is that it is clearly within our tradition and understanding of what church is, to offer as broad a possible welcome for all as an expression of God's love within our worshipping community and beyond, alongside recognition that God is the source of all love and therefore to honour a loving relationship, is part of recognising and celebrating that gift from God.

The prayers of love and faith (PLF) make provision for stable, faithful relationships between same-sex couples and for giving thanks for their faithfulness and their fruitfulness in service to God and neighbour. In that sense, they recognise the couple's commitments to one another. They ask for God's grace in the holy ordering of companionship and godly love as they follow Christ and seek to grow in holiness. They ask for God's blessing for them and their families as they offer self-giving love to one another, and in their witness and service to their neighbours.

The PLF are written for specifically written for same-sex couples, because no provision is currently made for them through public forms of prayer. The PLF are not a form of marriage service, nor do they equate the relationships brought before God to Holy Matrimony. Nevertheless, they recognise all that is good, and holy, and faithful in these relationships and enable the people in these relationships to place themselves before God and ask for God's blessing for their journey of love and faith.

Proposals for acceptance of couples to receive the Prayers of love and faith

I would anticipate that this would be at my discretion as incumbent. As the person who would meet with couples I would aim to understand their expectations, discuss the provision and scope of the prayers, and work with couples to explore the commitments that are made and the role of God in their relationship.

Standalone services

The standalone services are designed specifically for couples whose relationship is faithful, exclusive, permanent and stable. The PLF provide a way for a couple's relationship to be rejoiced in by the people of God and remembered in prayer. These services are not a form of Holy Matrimony, and must not be made to look like Holy Matrimony. Once a church has opted in officially – through agreement with PCC and incumbent – they will be added to a diocesan register of churches offering PLF standalone services for same sex-couples, so that couples can be directed to their nearest suitable parish church.

If a church wants to offer a standalone service, however, it is a requirement that the decision must be agreed between PCC and incumbent, and reflected in a PCC resolution.. No minister can be made to use a form of service against their conscience and no incumbent may override a decision by the PCC to offer the prayers in that parish.

A supportive and useful discussion ensued in which all members of the PCC were in agreement that they are happy for our priest to use the prayers within a service. It was felt that, whilst it is a step in the right direction, it does not go far enough towards total inclusivity and acceptance, but hopefully further steps will follow in the not too distant future.

RESOLUTION C

Events/Mission 2024:

Proposed Events for 2024	
24 th -27 th May	Flower Festival, for Whit bank holiday weekend to ensure that West window work is complete and scaffolding out of Mary Bass Room. To include a craft fayre – though need to discuss how many days or if that will run all days. Theme for the flower festival: All Things Bright and Beautiful Refreshments Evening Reception on the first night for Friends of All Saints members
6-7 th July	Medieval Festival – to enquire about having a stall at the festival in Carter’s park, Sherine to speak to Tracey Carter about this. To include Children’s activities, possibly a tour of All Saints or spotter tour for children.
14 th September	Community Showcase and possible fashion show by Chosen in the evening as a joint fundraiser
1 st December (date to be confirmed)	Christmas Extravaganza, craft fayre and Christmas tree festival
	Quizzes at Tigers Football Club
	Ceilidh at either the Reading rooms or WI Hall

There followed a lengthy discussion about the Flower Festival proposals, partly because there is now a wedding booked for Saturday, 25th May at 1.00, so the church will have to be closed for any Flower Festival visitors for a couple of hours around that time. It was decided that the Craft Festival could take place on Monday, 27th. On Sunday, 26th there could be an animal friendly Songs of Praise service in the morning and no service in the evening. Other ideas to consider could be an organ recital, an evening reception for helpers and Friends of All Saints, a concert, a fashion show, a film show, a quiz – all of which have enhanced previous festivals at the church.

As a further money raising scheme to consider it was suggested that a 50/50 Club, that several other churches have, might be a good idea. It was explained how these work and a Resolution was agreed.

RESOLUTION D

Some further ideas were put forward about our input in the Medieval Festival. It was agreed that a flyer for all the events should be produced so that people can be aware of everything that All Saints is doing during the year.

Lent and Easter Services 2024

13 th February – Shrove Tuesday	Eat lots of pancakes
14 th February Ash Wednesday	09.30am Holy Communion with Ashing 7pm Holy Communion with Ashing
24 th March Palm Sunday	10.15 Procession 10.30 service of Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong
Holy Week	
25 th March	7.30pm Compline
26 th March	7.30pm Compline
27 th March	7.30pm Compline
28 th March Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Holy Communion with foot washing
29 th March Good Friday	12pm Walk of witness (churches together Holbeach) 1pm refreshments 2pm Meditation at the foot of the cross
30 th March	? Lincoln Cathedral
31 st March	6.15am Easter Dawn Service 10.30 Easter Day Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Churchwarden's Report

- 1) The Loss Adjuster has confirmed that his recommendation to our Insurers is that they pay our claim for the wind damage etc to the nave roof above the Choir Vestry which includes the lead fascia to the nave gutter. The matter of the claim for rain water ingress to the organ is on-going as the Loss Adjuster is requesting further information regarding roof maintenance etc which I am trying to collate and provide to them. I have submitted to, and received approval from, the Faculty System for the proposed works to both the area over the Organ and over the Choir Vestry to proceed. I am therefore attempting to acquire sufficient funding in the form of grants etc to have the works, that are not covered by the Insurance Policy, carried out prior to the repair of the organ pipes etc. The church fabric has sustained further wind and rain water damage over the Christmas/New Year period and in January which will be added to the scope of repairs needed.

RESOLUTION E

Funds may also be available from other specific sources and help is being given by a Diocesan adviser to ensure suitable grants are applied for.

- 2) West window. I have received the 2019 Faculty Application back from the Registry with it duly amended to allow for the repairs to this window to proceed at a later date and separate to the original application. Following the receipt of this document you therefore will have seen that the work is proceeding and at the time of this PCC meeting all the scaffolding should be complete. The raised floor of the Mary Bass room has been partially removed and replaced to allow additional supports be installed underneath for the ground floor scaffold to bear upon. This ground floor scaffolding is in place, not only for access to the lower section of the West window but more importantly to support the bell ringing platform which has the remainder of the scaffold bearing upon it to enable access to the top of the window. The removal of the stained glass is scheduled to commence on 15th January. I would also remind the PCC that Devlin Plummer Stained Glass has offered us a tour of their works in Norwich, which is where the window is being taken for conservation/repair, in order that we can see the process being

undertaken and I would suggest that this is extended to the parishioners so that we can determine the possible take up of their kind offer.

This was seen to be a very good idea and it may be possible to hire the community bus, which would be more cost effective for those wishing to go.

- 3) With regard to the cash flow of the West window repairs, VAT liability etc I am in consultation, along with our Treasurer, with the Historic Churches Support Officer in an attempt to receive assistance with this as we need to fund the work before receiving the Mary Bass Charity grant.
- 4) Following much dialogue I received a replacement Payaz tablet immediately prior to Christmas eve, which is of a different manufacture to the original. Having installed it into the cabinet would appear to be functioning as intended, This is working on a SIM only basis rather than the Wi-Fi within the church.

The following items were presented at the meeting:

- 5) I apologise to the PCC as in December I found out that the Contract with Scottish Power for the supply of electricity to All Saints Church came to an end and I should have advised the PCC of this in November in order to seek their instructions regarding either renewal or seeking an alternative supplier. At the end of the contract we were paying £236.00 per month and if we did nothing in December regarding negotiating a new contract then Scottish Power were proposing to increase the monthly payment to £330.75. With assistance from Mick Boylan a negotiating discussion was had with Scottish Power and as a result a contract was agreed with them for a further three year term from 1st December 2023 which resulted in a reduction in the monthly payment of £82.45 to a new monthly figure of £153.55. The new contract fixes the Daily Service Charge at 73.66p per day, Day units at 25.47p per kWh and Evening & Weekend units at 22.23p per kWh. The Daily Service Charge is fixed for the three year period; however, the Units charge will be reviewed on a three month basis so can vary upwards or downwards depending upon the market rates etc. (It was found that an alternative supplier was offering similar rates so the decision was taken to stay with the current supplier.)
- 6) Our gas supplier is SEFE Energy and over recent months they have been making several errors in our bill. They have an incorrect site address for the church, an incorrect billing address, randomly charge an incorrect VAT rate and amount and also charge Climate Change Levy, which we are exempt from. Despite them having been requested on several occasions to rectify these errors they have not done so, therefore our Treasurer has advised them until these matters are corrected no further payments will be made by the church to them. It is estimated that they currently owe us between £1,500 and £2,000.
- 7) Following a request from Chris Penney to the CCLA to change the correspondent details for the CCLA it is required by the CCLA that a PCC Resolution is passed authorising this change. The Resolution was tabled and passed.

RESOLUTION F

Finally, I wish to record my gratitude to Mr Chris Penney for his invaluable help and assistance with the sourcing of contractors etc regarding the works to the West window, floor reinforcement and proposed repair works to the roof etc.

Roger Jennings

The PCC agreed that we are hugely indebted to Roger and Chris for all the work they have been doing to ensure the fabric and structure of the building is well looked after and maintenance tasks are prioritised and dealt with speedily. Our thanks were expressed to them for the enormous amount of time they give to the problems the church faces; their expertise, knowledge and persistence with these matters is very much appreciated.

Safeguarding:

A reminder was given that all ALMs need to have completed the Level 2 Training and Sherine hopes to get a date for a trainer in June/July.

There has been one Safeguarding incident, of which Caz is aware and the issue is being documented and dealt with.

Treasurer's Report: *separate accounts statement attached*

It was agreed to invite Chris Penney to the February meeting and to answer any questions regarding the figures presented. It would be helpful to notify Gill of any questions before the February meeting. One was raised at the meeting: clarification needed regarding the choir/music sum of money and what this referred to.

A.O.B.

- 1. APCM would take place on Sunday 21st April, following the morning service. There would be a shared lunch after this.*
- 2. Archdeacon Justine would be taking the morning service on 14th April.*
- 3. A Quiz at the Football Club is being organised by Lynne for 6th March.*
- 4. Mick Boylan would be asked to update the Electoral Roll in advance of the APCM.*
- 5. Les Crowson proposed a vote of thanks to Kim Biggs for everything she is doing to support the musical aspects of church worship, particularly with regard to all the extra services in the Advent/Christmas period.*

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m. with prayers

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 11th February, 2024 at 7.30 p.m.