

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 12th March, 2024

PCC MINUTES

Present: Revd Sherine Angus, Kim Biggs, Jackie Sheldrake, Judy Kelly, Les Crowson, Lynne Barks, Marion Goodman, Helen Drake, Gill Graper

Apologies for absence: Roger Jennings, Margaret Whaley, Michael Barton, Kevin Dodd, Martin Butler, Michael Goodman

The meeting opened with prayer

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

Matters arising:

- Thanks were expressed to the PCC members who have taken on cleaning jobs in the church whilst Dawn is on sick leave.
- Thanks were expressed to Lynne and Judy for organising the Quiz at the Football Club and to all those who supported the event.

Correspondence: An email letter had been received from the Bishops.

Vicar's Briefing:

In the past few weeks I have been approached by a number of people in their 20/30s who are new to the Christian faith, but keen to find out more. Whilst there will be an Alpha course starting in May, I was keen that something should be offered sooner for those who are interested. With that in mind I have begun a group which met for the first time on Wednesday 6th March for those new to faith to meet together, read the Bible and have time for questions to be answered.

The PCC was delighted that such a positive start had been made to introducing new people to the Christian faith.

An application has been sent to Mary Bass to cover some of the cost of the Alpha course, with a request of 60% from Mary Bass, if this is successful, it will leave All Saints with 20% of the cost to pay, the remainder being met by Mid Elloe and Sutton Bridge (costs being split by size of benefice). The Alpha sessions begin with a shared meal, a film and discussion with a theme for each evening. Paul and I will take it in turns to lead the sessions. The Community Larder have agreed to provide the meals for Paul and I to reheat at a cost of £1.50 per head. These will be things like lasagne or cottage pie.

I am still keen to begin a Messy Breakfast. My hope is that this will run at 9am on the 3rd Sunday of the month and will have the same theme as the All-Age worship. This way, those who attend can come to the Messy Breakfast and take part in craft activities etc. and then be invited to All Age worship to explore the theme in a different way. This could also be used as a way of showing and celebrating what has been done at Messy Breakfast with All Age Worship.

Consideration was given to this project and whether it would be possible to start it soon. Only one other person had offered to help and as the Alpha course is being run during the next few months it seemed better to wait until at least September to start another new project. Hopefully other people will respond to helping with this.

The Maundy Thursday service will be attended by Bishop Stephen at his request. He will be presiding and preaching at the service. I have extended an offer across the local mission partnership so that people are aware that he is attending and can come if they would like to.

I have 2 weeks booked off after Easter, the first for annual leave, the second for a retreat. It is a recommendation that all clergy attend an annual retreat of a week. A week long retreat allows for a time away from the benefice for prayer, nurturing my own relationship with God and time to be ministered to myself. The diocese provide a grant of £150 towards this and I have also been awarded another grant from a body that supports people attending retreat. From speaking to a number of clergy and to the diocese, it is usually expected that the Benefice fund the cost of travel to the retreat. Last year, the diocese generously funded the entire cost of my retreat and travel due to my personal circumstances. I would like to discuss with the PCC whether this is something they would consider doing. I shall be going to St Beuno's Retreat Centre in North Wales and it is a round trip of 374 miles. Last year my retreat was to Sheldon retreat centre in South Devon.

See RESOLUTION A FOR MARCH in separate document

In the next couple of weeks we have 3 school services in church for Easter and will see 100's of children and parents. I shall also use this time to promote the Flower festival and activities. *Sherine expressed her disappointment that the service for Holbeach Primary School had not taken place due to inclement weather.*

The Chrism mass, where clergy are invited to attend to renew their ordination vows will be held at 11am on the 26th March at Lincoln Cathedral. Bishop Stephen has asked that the invitation be extended to congregations if you would like to come and support your clergy. You are welcome to come along if you would like to!

The services for Holy Week and Easter are prepared, the ALMs will be leading the Compline services from Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week. I have asked the Ministry team for their thoughts on the length of the vigil on Maundy Thursday and shall update at the PCC meeting. With thanks to Kevin and Martin for the posters and flyers for Holy Week and Easter, they really do look wonderful.

It was agreed that the Vigil would last one hour immediately after the service when it is hoped many of the congregation will stay.

Michael Barton has asked to step down from counting the money, but Carole Warner has already offered to pick this up. I would like to express my thanks to Michael, both for his role on the PCC and for the time he has taken to count and bank money.

As I mentioned last month, I would like to explore a date for us to have a PCC away day to do some mission action planning. Last time we went to Skylark house which proved to be an ideal venue, the owner has just suffered a bereavement, so I shall be chasing up dates when I can.

Governance:

There was some questioning and discussion about the various policies and procedures that need to be implemented. A section in the Health and Safety document needs to be deleted as it is not relevant to All Saints. There were particular concerns raised about the use of a ladder in church, particularly for cleaning brasses and it was agreed that a new taller, sturdier and safer ladder needs to be made available. Risk Assessments have not been completed yet.

See RESOLUTION B FOR MARCH in separate document, showing which policies and role descriptions have now been adopted. There are more to complete.

Flower Festival:

An outline of all the events and organisation for the Flower Festival was presented. Sherine will send out invitations to flower arrangers and Friends of All Saints for the Friday evening event. Updates will be given on the pew sheet on a regular basis and everyone in the congregation will be encouraged to support the event. There will be labelled envelopes, Flower Festival, for monetary

contributions and lists to sign nearer the event for help with manning stalls, refreshments and welcoming.

Deanery Administrator

Sherine reported that she is now officially Caz's line manager and will complete her Appraisal soon. Caz has been awarded an overdue pay rise. Whilst Mary Bass give a proportion of the funding for her job, as well as other funding from the Diocese, there was discussion about the best way to ensure money comes from other churches in proportion to the work she does for them and how best to administer this. It seems likely that she will also soon take on some work for Crowland Church. Following advice from Chris Penney (Treasurer) the following decision was made:

See RESOLUTION C FOR MARCH in separate document

Churchwarden's Report

1. We have now received confirmation from the Loss Adjusters that the first of the two claims for rain water damage has been recommended for payment by our insurers. This is in respect of the ingress of rain water over the choir vestry etc. I am awaiting confirmation from Chris Penney as to our receipt of those funds. The claim for the organ damage has been sent to specialist assessors and I am awaiting their response.

2. The trip to Devlin Plummer to view the restoration works to the west window is arranged for 6th April and a mini bus has been arranged accordingly. At my last count there were 19 people attending this; therefore there will be an additional car going as well due to the mini bus having a capacity of 16. DP has advised a maximum of nominally 20-24 attendees.

3. Further to communications with Payez regarding the further failure of the replacement tablet they have agreed to replace that one as well now. Both the tablets failed in similar ways and they have suggested that the mains feed to the transformer adapter should have a surge protection device within it. I will ensure that upon receipt of the tablet a suitable device is purchased and used although I am far from convinced that this is the reason for the lack of reliability.

4. I have met with the electrician and am awaiting a quotation from him to bring our safety lighting within the church up to the requirements for such. Many of the current units have failed and the parts are not available to be able to repair them. This work comprises emergency lighting over the fire exit doors and within the body of the church itself. These items were flagged some time ago during an annual inspection prior to my appointment and once the quotation is received then I would recommend a proposal for the works to be put in hand together with a submission to the Mary Bass Charity for a contribution towards the costs.

See RESOLUTION D FOR MARCH in separate document

Treasurer's Report

PCC members had received the Accounts for January and February 2024. There was one question raised regarding the amount spent on the Choir and music. An explanation was given that amounts had been spent on the Junior Choir, on RSCM annual membership and on copyright payments.

No Parish Share had been sent to the Diocese yet this year, because of the cash flow problem of paying for the West Window and other works needed to be completed and paid for.

Carole Warner has agreed to take on the role of doing the weekly count of monies and she will also be sorting out what is required for the Gift Aid scheme.

The PCC is extremely grateful to Mary Bass Charity for the funding they give so generously. Jackie Sheldrake agreed to take to the next meeting the details regarding funding needed for the electrical work and the extra amount now required to ensure the work on the West Window can be completed.

See RESOLUTION E FOR MARCH in separate document

Thanks were expressed to Chris Penney and Carole Warner for all the work being done to ensure the accounts are in order.

Safeguarding:

One issue has been reported, which Sherine will deal with. Sherine will meet with Caz once a month to discuss and deal with any Safeguarding issues.

A.O.B.

APCM: Nomination forms for PCC members were available for people to take and the forms will be available on the table in church. It would be helpful if they are returned to Gill or put in the safe, before the meeting.

There are also Churchwarden nomination forms and Deanery Synod Representative forms.

Thanks were given to people who had written their reports for the APCM meeting so that a small booklet can be prepared to be given out at least a week before the meeting. It is hoped that the remaining reports will be sent to Gill before Easter.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. with prayers

Next Meeting:

APCM: Sunday, 21st April after the morning service. No meeting on 2nd Tuesday in April