

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 7th May, 2024

PCC MINUTES

Present: Revd Sherine Angus, Roger Jennings, Les Crowson, Chris Penney (ex-officio), Kim Biggs, Jackie Sheldrake, Janet Glenister, Philip Glenister, Ingrid Jennings, Carole Warner, Susan Peach, Gill Graper

Apologies for absence: Marion Goodman

The meeting opened with prayer

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

Matters arising: Dealt with under other sections of the meeting

Correspondence:

1. Minutes and notice of AGM from Churches Together group. Jackie Sheldrake is now the representative from All Saints and will be able to pass on details to the PCC of upcoming events.
2. Parish Council had informed the Vicar that the St Nicholas Fair this year would be on Saturday, 23rd November. There will be discussion at the next meeting with regard to how far All Saints may wish to be involved and whether it would be better to hold the annual Christmas Tree and Craft event at a later date eg. Saturday, 7th December.
3. A number of issues regarding maintenance around the churchyard had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council by Sherine, but it was disappointing that these issues were still outstanding. It is hoped that progress will be made very soon.

Vicar's Briefing:

Following the APCM we have a number of new PCC members and I am delighted to welcome them as we seek to lead and provide governance for All Saints Church. There are 2 main priorities for this year:

- Firstly to complete all the necessary work for the governance, safeguarding and safer recruitment of All Saints and all who volunteer here.
- To produce a Mission Action Plan (MAP) providing a 5 year plan of what we would like to achieve as a church, what our focus for mission and ministry will be, where are assets and resources lie, and how best we can use them.

We have received confirmation from the Co-op that Junior Choir have received a donation of over £1000 as a result of their Community Champions appeal and the Junior Choir team will be meeting soon to discuss how this can best be put to use. Like so many organisations we have found that families are reluctant to commit to regular attendance and our numbers have dropped recently. However, we shall be meeting to put together a plan for accessing a wider number of schools in order to promote Junior Choir and ensure that it continues children and youth work for All Saints.

The Alpha course began on Thursday. This is a 13-week course that Paul and I are running across Gedney, Sutton Bridge and All Saints. Paul and I shall be meeting before each session to pray for those attending and the course and we would be grateful for your prayers to as we seek to grow people in faith and discipleship. About 12 people have joined this group at the first meeting.

I am preparing between 4 people for confirmation in June at Moulton. All of them are new to faith and I have been running an additional group for them which is held in English and Farsi. It is a joy

to see those attending growing in faith, though I am aware that there is a limit to all the things I can do and this means that currently I am working 4-5 evenings a week in addition to everything else.

I am grateful to Gill and Christine for all the work on the Flower festival and it looks as though the plans are coming together well for a successful event with many different activities to suit a range of interests.

Safeguarding has been high on my list of priorities this month and due to 2 incidents, I have found several days taken up with liaising between the police, mental health services, community agencies and Diocesan Safeguarding. This has been difficult to manage at times due to the increased workload. Some of the safeguarding has been directed at me personally. This has been worrying and at times the vicarage has felt quite a vulnerable place for me and Connie to be rather than our home. The diocese have arranged for CCTV to be installed and have changed some locks. These events also highlight the importance of working hard to ensure that we comply with safeguarding. Whilst nothing can ever remove risk we have a responsibility to care for those we encounter and their, and our safety, has to be an absolute priority.

The West Window is now back in position and looks glorious, the best time of day to see it is early evening as the sun sets behind it. So do come along to Evensong! There is a special service to be held on the 19th May at 6.30pm with Bishop Nicholas to dedicate the window. Roger has done an incredible job, with the support of Chris, to ensure that the work has been carried out in a timely and excellent manner. We are meeting with a journalist from The Voice later this week for a story to be done for the press.

Particular thanks were expressed to Roger Jennings and Chris Penney for the huge amount of work that they had undertaken to ensure everything had gone so smoothly before, during and after the renovation of the window.

Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment:

It was stressed that whilst we all need to give a warm welcome to everyone who visits or becomes a part of our congregation, there have to be structures in place to ensure the safety of all individuals in any organisation. To this end those who take roles and responsibilities within the church family need to have job descriptions; undertake Safeguarding and Domestic abuse training; have DBS checks; and provide references from two referees. All PCC members should ensure that they have completed the necessary procedures as soon as possible, so that everyone feels protected as far as possible. PCC members are asked to give the necessary information and completion documents to Sherine and/or Caz (Deanery Administrator).

Governance:

PCC members were reminded that there are role descriptions in place for each person with a specific job that they are doing for the church and policies in place for the efficient organisation and running of activities and events within and for the church.

Flower Festival:

Gill explained that Sherine, Christine Penney and she had met recently to update and go through all the organisation for the Festival at the end of May. PCC members were given information about all events. Already many people are showing their support and offering help with the many tasks that will need to be done to ensure the success of the 4 day event. Notices are in place for people to sign for what help they are offering; publicity throughout the area and on social media is now evident with the beautiful posters produced by Kevin Dodd and Martin Butler. All PCC members are invited to the Friday evening 'thank you' event. It is hoped that the whole weekend will be a success in terms of fellowship, fun and funding.

Safeguarding:

Sherine reported that she had had to deal with several incidents recently, which had also involved the Crisis team and the police. This can be very time consuming and difficult. PCC is grateful that such matters are being dealt with sensitively and successfully.

Treasurer's Report:

Chris Penney presented the accounts for January – April 2024. A number of issues were discussed in detail:

- From about October 2024 there is a shortfall in the money that will be needed to pay for the Deanery Administrator. Great concern was expressed about this matter. Whilst most of the cost comes from the funding given from Mary Bass Charity via 7 churches in the area, it seems that not enough is forthcoming from other churches in the Deanery who benefit from the services administered by Caz Dennis.
- The situation regarding a Deanery Administrator will be raised at the next Deanery Synod meeting on 12th June, which Bishop Steven will attend and representatives from West Elloe Deanery as well as the Elloe East Deanery.
- £5500 has now been paid to the Diocese towards our Parish Share.
- Insurance cost for the church is likely to be a greater expense this year.
- It was explained that we will be able to claim back the VAT for the work done on the window.

Our huge gratitude to the Mary Bass Chairty is recorded for supporting All Saints with several specific bequests throughout the year. Thanks were expressed to Chris Penney and Carole Warner for all the work they do with regard to the finances of All Saints.

Churchwarden Report from Roger Jennings

- 1) With regards to the claims submitted to our insurers I am now pleased to report that we have received payments in respect of the storm damage to the roof and also the rain water damage to the organ pipes. The storm damage has been repaired and the south aisle roof re-pointed with leads aprons over the roof areas immediately adjacent to the east and west end rain water pipes so that should they become blocked again the overflow will not enter the church through the stone work below. It is now my intention to arrange for the organ to be repaired.
- 2) West window. This is now complete and looks absolutely splendid, the scaffolding has been removed and some cleaning up has been carried out. Nonetheless I would like to arrange a work group to complete the cleaning in time for the dedication service on the 19th May.
- 3) The Mary Bass Charity contribution to the costs of the window restoration has been gratefully received so there will not be any further strain on our cash flow in respect of on-going maintenance and expenditure caused by the expense of the window restoration.
- 4) The electrician is in the process of carrying out the necessary improvement and/or replacement works to emergency lighting within the church, replacement of the defective bulbs in the Mary Bass room, light units in the chancel (including the light over the choir stalls on the south side), light in the flower cupboard, and fitting a hard wired fused spur for the roof alarm power supply, at the bottom of the stairs to the bell ringing platform, as the 3 pin plug has been disconnected on several occasions.

- 5) Following multiple issues regarding connectivity of the roof alarm system we have had the GBSG engineer on site during W/C 29th April and he has carried out work to clear faults and clean the SIM card which provides the connectivity between the church and the offsite monitoring station. If the faults persist then we will need to have the control panel replaced, which will need the PCC approval for the expenditure.
- 6) The internal CCTV has been serviced during April and all was found to be functioning as intended. The four camera lenses were cleaned and the recording facility was checked.
- 7) The tower clock and carillon were serviced in March and whilst no issues were found of note at the time the carillon did develop a fault around Easter. Consequently we have requested the return of the engineers and after further work it is now functioning correctly.

Discussion followed about the West Window and a number of matters regarding the dedication of the window by Bishop Nicholas on 19th May.

- Sherine, Roger and Chris are to have a meeting soon with a journalist from The Voice to ensure there is some very positive publicity about the West Window.
- It was agreed that a plaque should be placed in the inside area near the window in recognition of those named people who have contributed to the cost.
- A formal resolution was taken as to the wording on the plaque:

The West Window was restored in April 2024 through the generous donations from the Mary Bass Charity, Mr John Temple and Chosen.

Proposed: Les Crowson Seconded: Jackie Sheldrake All present were in agreement.

Sherine will order the plaque this week.

- Roger asked for help so that some extra cleaning could be done in the area around the Mary Bass Room before the Dedication event. Jackie Sheldrake agreed to help on Saturday, 18th May from 10.00 a.m.

The meeting was informed that Dawn, our cleaner, would be able to return to her duties very soon.

A.O.B.

- A date needs to be decided for the Mission Action Planning Awayday. Sherine will find some possible dates and Gill will coordinate responses from PCC members to decide on the best day for availability.
- Future PCC meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, except in August and December.
- The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th June at 7.30 p.m. in the MBR.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.55 p.m.