

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 11th June , 2024

PCC MINUTES

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

Apologies for absence: Marion Goodman, Roger Jennings, Ingrid Jennings, Susan Peach

The meeting opened with prayer

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting. The Minutes were accepted as being a true record and signed by Rev Sherine Angus.

Correspondence:

An email had been received from the Diocese to say that the Revd Canon David Dadswell will be leaving the Diocese.

Vicar's Briefing:

May brought our flower festival and with thanks to the hard work of Gill and Christine and all who contributed in so many different ways it was a successful and enjoyable event. There were plenty of different activities and events during the festival to attract a wide range of people and all those I spoke to talked about how much they had enjoyed it.

General comments were made about the Flower Festival. The total of money taken during the event was £2119.60, which was an increase in the amount raised in the previous two years. Thanks were expressed to everyone who had helped in any way. It had been a very successful team effort.

On the 2nd June, 4 new congregation members were confirmed in Moulton and it was a joyous occasion. It was such a privilege to see them grow in faith and confidence as they publicly expressed their Christian faith.

Personally life at the vicarage has been challenging, following significant safeguarding issues the month before, I was burgled on the 4th June in the early hours of the morning. The vicarage was entered, my keys and purse stolen, my TV smashed and my car stolen. My car has since been recovered and is with forensics, but the keys remain missing and actively moving around, as can be seen on a tracker that is attached to them. The police are sure that those involved will be back each night to see if the car is there and attempt to take it again. Once again living here feels uncomfortable and difficult, particularly as a single parent.

The diocese have been supportive, new locks were installed that day and CCTV and an enhanced intruder alarm linked to the police station will be fitted this week. Sorting all of this out, dealing with police, forensics, banks etc. has been a never ending task this week which has interrupted time for ministry.

Looking forwards, as it is the last term, we shall be having school leaver's services for our local schools and Micki and I shall be presenting each year 6 with a book by Scripture Union on next steps after primary school.

Events:

Next year, 2025, will be the 800th anniversary of the founding of All Saints Church, Holbeach. Everyone agreed that the significance of the anniversary must be celebrated and expressed with a variety of special events. Varied suggestions were made for special events that could be planned

and groups that might be invited to promote the anniversary and celebrate the history of the building, the creativity of local people and showcase a range of different uses and activities for the church.

It was agreed that the following should take place:

- Form an Events Committee – a number of the PCC put their names forward, but it is also hoped that others in the congregation and in the town would join this group.
- Put a Suggestions Box in the church so that everyone has the opportunity to contribute ideas.
- Have a first meeting of the Committee in September.
- A special logo for the anniversary should be created. A church stamp with this logo would be a useful acquisition.

It was also agreed that the annual Christmas Tree and Craft Festival should take place on Saturday 30th November, the same day as the St Nicholas Fair, organised by the Parish Council, is taking place.

Churchwarden Report from Roger Jennings

- 1) Having received the funds from the Insurers I am pleased to report that the organ has now been repaired and tuned so this now concludes the works to the south aisle etc caused by the wind and storm damage in 2023 and earlier this year.
- 2) The electrician has completed the works identified in the earlier electrical inspection save for a faulty down light in the chancel and a bulb needing replacement in the Mary Bass room. The light in the 'flower arrangers' cupboard with the sink' has been replaced and an additional emergency light installed in the North inner porch.
- 3) The roof alarm appears to be now functioning correctly following the visit by the GBSG technician last month although I have had to remove some vegetation growing over the choir vestry roof that was causing an alarm to be triggered by leaves blowing in the wind. I note that SH Council have not attended to prune the trees that they advised was to have been carried out some weeks ago so further contact will need to be made with them in this regard.
- 4) An incident occurred in the church on Monday 3rd June when two 15 year old boys were locked in the church after the church had been closed for the day. They contacted the police, who did not appear to attend or contact anyone from the church until approximately 2100 hrs that day. The boys broke out of the church by breaking the chancel door padlock with a hoe they found in the south porch. I attended the church after the police contacted the deputy Church warden and secured the door by a temporary repair and it is now awaiting a better repair with new oak and security provision. Prior to locking up a warning should be shouted in the church to warn anyone in the church that the building is now going to be locked.
- 5) We are reviewing our gas supplier as our current 3 year contract terminates in December this year however I will leave the summary of the future likely expenditure and supplier to our Treasurer in his report. Needless to say and as you will doubtless imagine there will be some substantial increases in the unit cost of consumption.

Thanks were expressed to Roger for the huge amount of work he has organised and coordinated in the past few months. The work on the organ was particularly mentioned and the much appreciated improvement in the sound of the instrument was commented on.

Roger asked for volunteers to join him for a 'work and tidy up' day to sort out the area around the outside wall of the church, particularly near the south aisle wall. Volunteers are asked to speak to Roger if they are able to help, so that a convenient day for everyone can be organised. A notice on the pew sheet or given out on Sunday mornings might be the best way forward.

With regard to the problem of overhanging trees in the churchyard, that are causing blockages and therefore damage, Sherine agreed to contact the Parish Council again to action this work, so that more damage to the church can be avoided.

Treasurer's Report and Financial matters

Energy costs:

Chris Penney and Roger Jennings had done a great deal of research into the cost of gas and the deals offered by a number of suppliers. The figures for these were shown to PCC members and a discussion took place. It was made clear that we cannot afford to use the amount of gas that is at present being used. The consumption must be reduced and this will obviously mean that the church feels colder in the winter months. The thermostat will have to be turned down from its present level.

There were concerns raised about how temperature affects the organ and its pipes.

Sherine explained that someone from the Diocese will come to assess our use and it may be a good idea to look into heating specific pews rather than the total area of the church. There is likely to be a grant given to help with improving our heating system.

Following explanations from Chris Penney and discussion it was agreed to use EON Next as our gas supplier.

See PCC Resolutions June 2024 No. 1

Insurance

Ecclesiastical has been our insurance provider for a number of years, but it was suggested that it may be a good idea to move to Trinitas which would be cheaper. Two restrictions were discussed:

- *Trinitas would only pay up to £50,000 for any lead replacement to the roof*
- *Trinitas would put a limit on contents insurance of £250,000*

It was agreed that no single content was worth more than about £2000, so the limit on contents would not be a problem. Whilst the lead replacement could be an issue, it was agreed that, with the alarm system on the roof, it would be very unlikely that any large amount of lead could be taken as the alarm system would immediately be actioned.

Following explanations from Chris Penney and discussion it was agreed to use Trinitas as our Insurers.

See PCC Resolutions June 2024 No. 2

Monthly report from the Treasurer was discussed. Chris felt that we are in a more positive situation than previously, but that any further payment to the Diocese should wait until all invoices have been paid and all agreed grants and payments have been put into the accounts.

A request was made to make a donation to the Lincoln Guild of Bellringers. This was agreed.

See PCC Resolutions June 2024 No. 3

Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment:

Nothing to report.

A.O.B.

1. Caz Dennis, Deanery Administrator, has to have some time off as she has a hospital procedure and other treatment so will not be in the Office from 12th June. Plans have been put in place to cover the work that she would normally undertake and it is hoped that she will make a speedy recovery. Sherine will organise for flowers and card to be sent next week
2. Annual Church Cycle Ride will take place on Saturday 14th September.
3. It was agreed that the tapestries, created originally for the Cemetery Chapels in Holbeach, could be hung in the church, once they have been cleaned/ mended where necessary. Carole Warner will oversee the necessary work required.
4. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, 9th July at 7.30 p.m.