

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 9th July, 2024

PCC MINUTES

Present: Revd Sherine Angus, Kim Biggs, Jackie Shel Drake, Janet Glenister, Carole Warner, Roger Jennings, Ingrid Jennings, Gill Graper

Apologies for absence: Philip Glenister, Les Crowson, Chris Penney (ex-officio), Marion Goodman, Susan Peach,

The meeting opened with prayer

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting were read, approved and signed.

Matters arising:

- Crafters have now been booked for the November 30th Christmas event and a good link made with a firm willing to donate Christmas trees

Correspondence:

Email received from Diocese with regard to a Foundation Governor for William Stukeley C of E Primary School.

Stewart Cuthbertson was the suggested name from the Diocesan Board of Education and was duly proposed as the nominated Governor by the PCC.

See PCC Resolutions July 2024 No. 1

Vicar's Briefing:

The diocese has nearly completed fitting CCTV, an upgraded intruder alarm and new external lighting at the vicarage. There was some damage (around £3000) to my car and that should be dealt with this week. The police have made one arrest so far and I have given a statement but the expectation is that I may need to go to court. *Reported that one person had already been referred for a Crown Court appearance.*

Following a meeting of the deanery partnership pastoral committee an initial plan for the distribution of churches within the LMP and how they might fit with 4 stipendiary posts has been discussed and is now able to be shared with PCCs – see later info in Minutes.

I entered All Saints into a bid for a free energy audit worth £1000 through a national scheme within the Church of England. We were successful in that bid and had an email to congratulate us on being successful as we are one of the highest energy users in the country! The diocese now employs 2 people responsible for reducing energy and working towards carbon neutrality. These are funded centrally by the Church of England as we move towards 2030 and the commitment to be carbon

neutral. In addition to the audit, which should be done in the autumn we will also be entitled to a grant of £3000 towards energy efficiency initiatives and access to further grants depending on what we decide might be the way forward.

We are gathering ideas for the 800th celebrations and I have so far contacted the following people: - Riding Lights theatre company –

Transported arts organisation –

Michael Slater has agreed to do a full peal at some point during the year inviting ringers from across the deanery partnership –

I have spoken with the schools about the possibility of an evening of singing uniting all the schools. –

Canon Precenter, Nick Brown at the cathedral re the possibility of a Messiah from scratch supported by the cathedral.

My hope is that we shall have our first meeting of the celebration committee in September.

I have been in touch with Skylark house, where we had our last away day, they have offered the 12th October. I am being put in touch with our mission enabler so that we can put together our mission action plan covering the next 5 years. This will give us a clear focus and understanding of what we are working towards, the areas we wish to focus on and the people we would like to reach. By doing this it ensures that we have something clear with which to direct our focus rather than a scatter gun approach which is less sustainable.

Sherine explained that she has contacted a Mission Enabler who will help with putting together a Mission Action Plan for All Saints. PCC members agreed on the suggested date and Sherine will contact Skylark House and book the event.

LMP Reorganisation

The suggested plan was shown to PCC members. Sherine would have responsibility for Holbeach St Johns as well as All Saints, Holbeach.

It was pointed out that whilst there has been a reduction in the number of priests in recent years from five and a half in our Deanery to 4 full time priests, this seems to be a much better outcome than in many Deaneries.

Energy and heating

The increase in the cost of fuel and the amount that we have been using was discussed in detail. On present predictions the cost would be in the region of £16,000 per year which is unsustainable. Difficult decisions must be made both in what we

can do to reduce costs in the short term and then what kind of larger project to reduce costs might be possible in the future eg. heated pew cushions, fleeces for congregation members to wear, solar panels, congregation members sitting in one small area of the church for services.

An energy audit will be completed in the Autumn and a grant of £3000 has been awarded which can be used towards energy efficient ideas.

Initially the thermostat will be turned down to 10 – 12 degrees (it has been on 15 degrees) and the costs will be monitored on a monthly basis.

It was agreed that congregation members need to be asked for opinions, so that satisfactory decisions may be made in this difficult situation.

Safeguarding

Sherine had written the necessary Policy statements regarding Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment. These were read and discussed at length. A vote was taken on accepting the policy which may be found on the church website.

See PCC Resolutions JULY 2024 Nos. 2 and 3

Churchwarden Report from Roger Jennings

1) The Certificate of Practical Completion of the repair and restoration of the west window has been signed and returned to the Bishop of Lincoln's Registry in accordance with the conditions of the reinstatement and extension to the faculty dated 26th November 2019.

2) We are still awaiting the electrician to return and repair/replace a faulty down light in the chancel and the bulb in the Mary Bass room.

3) The roof alarm has been serviced and the batteries in the roof cameras replaced as necessary. Since the SIM card was cleaned the system appears to be functioning correctly and we have not received any calls from the monitoring station to indicate to the contrary.

4) On Saturday 6th July a working party will be attending to tidying up the small remembrance garden area to the North East corner of the churchyard and also to cut back excessive foliage from around the perimeter of the church building in those areas which the church is responsible for. *Due to inclement weather it was not possible to work outside but another date will be organised.*

Kim Biggs agreed to organise the necessary PAT testing, as she had done in previous years.

Carole Warner agreed to keep the cremated remains area tidy as and when necessary.

It was agreed that the upkeep and maintenance of the church clock should be the responsibility of the Parish Council as it is a town clock. Roger will contact Roy Willingham for advice on how to proceed with this matter, as he has similar experience of the matter with Whaplode Church.

Treasurer's Report and Financial matters

Members of the PCC were given and accepted the latest Financial statement. It was agreed by all PCC members, who were present, to send £5500 to the Diocese as a further payment towards our Parish Share.

It was explained that from now the payments for the Deanery Administrator will be made from the All Saints account. Contributions from other parishes in the Deanery will come into the All Saints account.

So that the accounts for 2021 can be finalised, Carole Warner asked for confirmation about which members were on the PCC at that time.

A.O.B.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th September at 7.30 in the MBR.

The meeting ended with prayers at 9.00 p.m.