

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH**  
**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**  
**PCC MINUTES**

**Present:** Roger Jennings, Les Crowson, Chris Penney (ex-officio), Kim Biggs, Jackie Sheldrake, Janet Glenister, Carole Warner, Ingrid Jennings, Gill Graper

**Apologies for absence:** Revd Sherine Angus, Marion Goodman

**The meeting opened with prayer**

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9<sup>th</sup> July, were read and signed by Roger Jennings (Churchwarden)

**Matters arising**

It was noted that, since the last PCC meeting in July, both Susan Peach and Philip Glenister had tendered their resignation from the PCC. Thanks go to them for their contributions.

There is nothing further to report regarding the funding of the maintenance of the Church clock.

Everyone, who had been present at the **first Sunday of the month service in September**, agreed that it had been a very successful new style of worship and appreciated by everyone who attended. Sherine hopes that it will be possible to continue these services on a bi-monthly basis, but help will be needed with preparation. Jackie Sheldrake agreed to help and it is hoped that there may be other members of the congregation who will also offer help.

**800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations** – a very successful initial meeting had taken place, from which four sub groups have been formed to take forward the planning of specific events. It was noted that there has already been some negative comments regarding the possible taking out the wooden pews. It would help to generate more income by providing a larger open space for more varied activities. It was agreed that this huge project would take several years to plan and that everyone both in the congregation and in the wider Holbeach community should be involved in discussions.

**Heating and energy costs** – the effect of lowering of the thermostat to 10 degrees C needs to be monitored, so that there can be discussions about how far it is possible to lower the temperature, particularly in the winter months. It was explained that keeping a constant temperature is important so that the organ will not be adversely affected. There was discussion about increasing the constant temperature in the month of December when there are so many extra services and school visits.

**Governance**

A number of policies and documents were presented.

The following are listed in a separate Appendix:

1. CCTV Policy
2. Privacy Policy and GDPR

It was also noted that in the event of a Clergy vacancy all Safeguarding records will be passed to the Parish Safeguarding Officer for secure storage.

Roger agreed to contact two members of the congregation who do not appear to have presented their Safeguarding certificates to Caz.

All APCM reports should be given to the PCC Secretary by the end of January – these reports should only refer to news and events in the year 2024.

There were no Safeguarding issues to report.

**Correspondence:** None had been received

### **Vicar's Briefing:**

Firstly, my apologies for not being with you this evening.

We have had a good summer with increasing numbers at church, unusual for the time of year, August/beginning of September has also seen some new younger people (20s/30s) coming along to All Saints. On Sunday 1st September we held our first café church; it was an experiment to try and increase engagement in Christian faith and discipleship, to offer an opportunity to chat about the theme for the day and apply it to daily life. The feedback has all been incredibly positive and it is clear that this is a style of worship that is welcomed by those who attended. Intergenerational worship, rather than separate events for children and adults is evidenced by research, to have a greater impact and growth in reaching families and communities as there is the possibility to learn from each other. If the PCC were to support this, I would be keen to hold café church style AAW in place of some, if not all All Age traditional worship on the 1st Sunday of the month. It is something that creates intimacy and builds community and I am well aware that there are people who have attended the church for decades who do not know those who have been attending for 1-2 years+. Few people stay for coffee after the service, so having a service which introduces that social element is a way of gently encouraging greater interaction with others.

However, for this service to be a success we do need to have a small team, as we do for our Holy Communion service, to assist with the setting up and putting away afterwards. Any thoughts on this would be helpful. If this is not possible, then we shall revert to AAW in its normal format.

### **800th Anniversary**

We have had our first meeting for the 800th Anniversary and a good number of suggestions have been put forwards which were discussed on Wednesday. My hope is that we shall have a team responsible for each different category of events. Attached to possible events within the church and community is the idea that this is a perfect opportunity for ensuring that All Saints is future proof for the next 800. This might encompass removing pews, reviewing heating systems, a bigger kitchen and storage along the South Side of the church, all to make the space more flexible and welcoming as a worship space, but also allowing far greater scope for community events.

The events and buildings have been split into smaller teams for organisation purposes following a well attended meeting to discuss the 800th anniversary. A calendar for the year has been created as a working document so that events can be added and be seen by all. The next meeting to finalise the programme is the 6th November. The teams are:

Arts and Crafts: Carole Warner and Carol Hellen

History: Jackie Sheldrake, Gill Graper and Phillip Mears

Music: Kim Biggs, Ingrid Jennings and Pat Duncan  
Buildings: Roger Jennings, Chris Penney and Mick Boylan

## **Energy**

Our energy audit has been submitted to the diocese, with thanks to Roger for that, and we are waiting to hear from the environmental team when they will be out to do our survey which will then allow us to access grants. In the meantime, whilst speaking to the congregation about our situation regarding energy bills, no suggestions have come forward which is why I have added it to the agenda again. We need to make a decision as to what we shall do going forwards with regards to the heating system as maintaining it at 15 degrees is not sustainable or affordable. My suggestion would be that we reduce the thermostat to a lower temperature to prevent freezing and monitor the bills, this allows us to adjust the temperature downwards depending on the cost and respond in real time. Do we need to purchase fleece blankets? Pew heating cushions? How do we manage things such as weddings/funerals etc.? We cannot turn heating on for a specific service as the changes in temperature that this creates affects the organ, so we do need to set a temperature that at the very least will prevent frost. I have had a long chat with Chris who is taking the lead with the diocese for energy assessments and has assured us that we are a priority. We have discussed the need for a short term solution such as infra-red heating to directly heat people, as exploring solar panels is going to take more time. The energy assessment will release a £3000 grant, which won't go far, but Chris is aware of other grants that we can apply for too.

## **Christmas and Advent**

The rota has been done for the Christmas/Advent services and is attached, as an Appendix. There is the addition of an Advent carol service and also an informal evening of Carol Service in the hope that this will attract a broader range of people attending.

## **Safeguarding and Governance**

Over the summer I have worked on governance and safeguarding as this has been a key priority this year. Our safeguarding dashboard is now almost complete which allows us to monitor how we are performing in keeping people safe and good practice. A couple of final things are that the PCC need to decide where safeguarding records go during a clergy vacancy, my proposal would be that they are kept with the Parish Safeguarding Officer. As a PCC we need to agree that our list of non-church activities, that is activities that take place within the church building and are not run by the church, is complete. There are no such activities – I have included Mother's Union as a church activity.

I have sent a copy of the safer working practice to all those involved in ministry/activities. All have replied to say that they are happy to work within this guidance. It is within the parish safeguarding handbook in the PCC portal if you would like to read it.

## **Churchwarden Report: Roger Jennings**

1) Due to the various holidays of the personnel involved the electrician is expected to return to carry out the PAT testing and repair/replace a faulty down light in the chancel and the bulb in the Mary Bass room during week commencing the 16th September.

2) We currently have an issue with the Carillon whereby the hammer assembly for one of the bells appears to have a broken part. This is being further investigated by Michael Slater as to whether this is a repair that can be carried out 'in-house' or whether we will require Smiths of Derby to attend the church and carry out the necessary repairs. ***This has now been resolved in house and at no cost. Many thanks to Michael Slater and Robert Simpson.***

3) As we are approaching the leaf fall season we will be arranging for the roof gutters and down pipes to be cleaned in an attempt to prevent blockages and subsequent ingress of rain water in to the church this autumn/winter. ***Gutters and downpipes will be cleaned on 13/09***

4) We have received a report of a rodent entering the stairs from the outer North porch that lead to the turret. I am endeavouring to locate the key for the locked door to investigate this report further and will be contacting the appropriate authorities to seek their assistance in dealing with this matter.

5) Due to delays in the Diocese receiving resourcing for the Energy Audit, which we have been advised will be carried out at All Saints, this audit is yet to be undertaken. You will recall discussions at previous PCC meeting where we considered the likely financial impact of the forthcoming changes to our Gas consumption tariff. As agreed at the time the thermostat for the church interior has been adjusted down from 15 deg C to 10 deg C and the effect this reduction will have on both the environment within and our gas consumption/bill will be monitored as the autumn and winter approach. In the meanwhile we are continuing to consider other means of providing some comfort heating to all the attendees of the church services whilst being mindful of our finances etc.

6) Due to the inclement weather on the day that was previously agreed for the working party to tidy 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, this work has not been done. However I am grateful, and record my thanks, for the works that Carole Warner and Mick Boylan have carried out in the intervening period in helping to maintain those areas of the churchyard that we are responsible for and I would like to agree a new date(s) for a concerted effort to get this, and other works done before the autumn/winter please.

***It was also reported that a new Smartwater application is required and this will be done in the next month.***

***Camera No. 9 – batteries have gone flat, but will be replaced.***

### **Treasurer's Report and Financial matters**

The financial statement up to the end of August is available in a separate document.

The VAT refund for the West Window will come into the account in the next five days. Half of the Parish Share (£11,000) has now been paid to the Diocese and it will be possible to pay the rest as required in instalments.

Huge vote of thanks was expressed to Chris Penney and Carole Warner for the brilliant work they have done during the past couple of years. Thanks to what they have achieved the accounts are now in a much healthier state.

## **A.O.B.**

- 1.** PCC members were delighted to hear that Matthew Simons has been awarded an RSCM Gold Award, following a course and examination he attended in August. PCC agreed that the cost of taking the award and the medal should be covered by the Church. Jackie Sheldrake agreed that the Mary Bass Charity would reimburse these costs.
- 2.** The flower arrangers would be having a meeting with Sherine at the end of September to discuss costs and rotas, in the hopes that more members of the congregation might become involved and spread the load for the tasks involved and the financial implications of providing the flowers.
- 3.** Christmas Tree and Craft Festival will be taking place on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November. Christine Penney and Gill Graper will be organising the event but it is hoped that there will be plenty of involvement from other members of the congregation to ensure the success of the event.

The meeting closed at 8.50 with prayers.

**Next PCC Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. in the MBR.