

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH**  
**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**  
**PCC MINUTES**

**Present:** Revd Sherine Angus, Roger Jennings, Les Crowson, Chris Penney (ex-officio), Kim Biggs, Janet Glenister, Carole Warner, Ingrid Jennings, Marion Goodman Gill Graper

**Apologies for absence:** Jackie Sheldrake,

**The meeting opened with prayer**

**The Minutes of the previous meeting**, held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, were read and signed by Roger Jennings (Churchwarden).

**Matters arising:** None raised that will not be dealt with later in the meeting.

**Correspondence:**

- Notification of a service held in Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, *Celebration of Women's Ministry*
- Covenant agreement between the Parish of Holbeach and the Diocese of Lincoln
- Minutes of Churches Together East Elloe and notification of services to be held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and The Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**Vicar's Briefing:**

From the beginning of September, the pace of work has picked up hugely. Kim and I spent a week going into most of the local primary schools and as a result, we now have a number of new junior choristers. Kim's commitment and work in helping to grow Junior Choir is very much appreciated and it is a joy to hear the wonderful sound that the new choristers are already making. Our hope is that this will continue as they settle into Junior Choir, and continue to learn. A trip has been organised for the junior choir members to see the Snowman at Lincoln Cathedral in December. Unfortunately, this will just be for the older members as tickets were nearly sold out when I booked them in August. But we hope to plan something for the new members soon.

As most of you may know, Caz is now off work for a while and all communication is being directed to the vicar of the parish. This will obviously see an increase in my workload accordingly. Any safeguarding concerns will also need to come directly to me rather than through the parish safeguarding officer. We continue to keep her in our prayers at this time.

I have booked Bishop Nicholas for Candlemas on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 as part of the 800 years. It seems appropriate at the beginning of the year as the main theme of Candlemas is about us being sent out carrying the light of the world into our community. Bishop Stephen has also confirmed that he will be attending for All Saints Day (2<sup>nd</sup> November) as it is our Patronal Festival. Our next meeting for the 800 years celebrations is in November.

All the services are booked in for Advent and Christmas, as are all the school services, apart from UAH. Kim and I have met and planned all the music up to and including the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in January which has been a huge job. Again, many thanks to Kim for the gift of her time and expertise.

***Three services to be held in November were highlighted:***

- ***All Souls' Service 3<sup>rd</sup> November 6.30 p.m. Arrangements have been made for readers and names to be read out. Revd Paul Carey-Slater will be taking this service.***

- **Remembrance Service on 10<sup>th</sup> November – there will be a service at the war memorial at 10.50, before the church service afterwards.**

I am meeting with the Parish Council to discuss the Remembrance service, this will be in the morning and there will also be an act of remembrance on the 11<sup>th</sup> (the following day).

- **Joint Deanery Partnership Service 24<sup>th</sup> November 4.00 p.m. at All Saints and to include both Elloe West and Elloe Deaneries. There will therefore be no Evensong on that day.**

Otherwise there is not a huge amount to report as all time and energy has gone into planning and organising everything for Harvest/Advent/Christmas.

I know that Gill and Christine have been hard at work sorting out the Christmas tree festival and my thanks go to them.

***Gill presented a separate document to show how planning of this event was progressing. The timings have been altered by the Parish Council for the St Nicolas Fair event, so it runs from 13.00 – 18.00. The event in church will run from 10.00 – 17.00. Kim raised the question of when the Carol Singing outside by the tree will take place. There will need to be consultation about this with the Parish Council and also whether Holbeach Town Band will be playing.***

It should be noted that Chris and Carole have done an amazing job with the finances and our 2021 accounts are currently being audited, after which 2022 and 2023 are ready to be done too. This will mean that our accounts are finally up to date and we will be compliant. As a PCC it is our responsibility to ensure that the accounts are done as is legally required and the work of Chris and Carole has ensured that will happen.

Our away day is booked for the 12<sup>th</sup> October, and for those that are attending we shall be looking at developing a mission action plan for All Saints going forwards. Work with the congregation from the All Age service for Harvest will also feed into this.

### **Churchwarden Report: Roger Jennings**

- 1) The electrician has returned to carry out the PAT testing and repair/replace a faulty down light in the chancel and the bulb in the Mary Bass room.
- 2) We have had the roof gutters and down pipes cleaned in an attempt to prevent blockages and subsequent ingress of rain water in to the church this autumn/winter. There has been some ingress of rain water over the choir vestry caused by (a) the gutter and hopper being partially blocked with general detritus, which has now been cleared and (b) a yet to be determined problem with the lead roof over the south aisle above the choir vestry. The latter has been previously inspected and no further problems were found after the repairs last year therefore this will now require further investigation.
- 3) I have purchased a rat trap and located it by the door in the porch where a rat was allegedly seen and reported but despite regular inspections nothing has been caught thus far.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Sherine and I have been approached by a member of the congregation who would like us to reconsider the decision to turn off the floodlighting of the church. I have explained the reasoning that took place last year in coming to that decision which was completely understood. However the person concerned has advised that they would pay for the conversion of the flood lights to LED and also for the running costs for the to be on as before for a period of 12 months. I advised what was the approximate cost for the conversion last

year, which will undoubtedly be higher now, and have undertaken to seek an up to date quotation. The suggestion was also made to me that we revert to the system in the past whereby the flood lights are sponsored by individuals or organisations on a particular day, days or week to commemorate a birthday, anniversary etc and that the sponsor is publicised, with their agreement, in the church and local paper etc. I would therefore like this to be discussed at the PCC meeting and if acceptable then a resolution will be required accordingly.

**An extensive and thoughtful discussion took place where arguments were put forward regarding the pros and cons of turning on the flood lights again. A vote was taken on the following proposal:**

***The PCC propose that the offer made regarding the conversion of the flood lights from halogen to LED is accepted and sponsorship of the lights on a monthly basis should be reintroduced.***

***Proposed: Les Crowson                      Seconded: Carole Warner***  
***Votes in favour: 8                      Votes against: 1***  
***The proposal was therefore duly accepted.***

- 6) Some works have been carried out in the area around the church, that is our responsibility, to clear overgrown vegetation etc and whilst not complete a significant amount has been achieved and I record my thanks to Mick B, Michael B, Phil G and Carole W for their continued support with this work.
- 7) GBSG's investigation revealed that there was no fault found with the roof alarm batteries or cameras therefore the problem was deemed to be at the monitoring station and I have therefore returned their invoice and advised them that it will not be paid.
- 8) Sherine and I are meeting with the DAC on 15<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the possible alternatives with regard to seating, storage and facilities etc. so that we can review our options and possibilities to accommodate a wider range of activities than the current layout allows. It is stressed that this is an exploratory meeting.

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

The accounts up until the end of August were shared. (see separate sheet) Another quarter of the Parish Share has now been paid to the Diocese. It was agreed that Kim Biggs should be paid for all the extra services that will be taking place in the coming months.

Accounts are now with the auditors.

Thanks were expressed to Chris and Carole for their continued hard work to ensure that All Saints is now in a much more secure situation as regards finances.

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

Gill raised the question of whether we should be giving greater support to a range of charities, both locally, nationally and internationally, particularly with regard to the distressing situation in the Middle East. It was agreed to make this an Agenda item for the next PCC meeting. Members need to think about which charities to support and at which services would it be best to ask for donations.

**The meeting closed at 20.40 with prayers.**

**Next PCC Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. in the MBR.