

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 12th November, 2024

PCC MINUTES

Present: Revd Sherine Angus, Roger Jennings, Les Crowson, Kim Biggs, Janet Glenister, Jackie Sheldrake, Carole Warner, Ingrid Jennings, Gill Graper

Apologies for absence: Chris Penney (ex-officio), Marion Goodmah

The meeting opened with prayer

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8th October were read and signed as a correct record by Revd Sherine Angus

Matters arising: None that will not be covered in other sections of the meeting

Correspondence: An email had been received from the Diocese to record that Stewart Cuthbertson had been appointed the Foundation Governor for William Stukeley Primary School.

Vicar's Briefing:

Since we last met we have had a Mission Action planning day. This was a successful day exploring the strengths of All Saints and also the areas where we could focus in order to achieve our aims of sharing God's love to all through welcome and walking alongside the community of Holbeach.

3 main areas were identified as the focus for the action plan: -

- To explore joining community events with a stand for All Saints, events such as the monthly Farmer's Market, the Food Festival, Holbeach Beer and Music festival. There are further options to explore such as applying to the transformation fund for a gazebo that could be used at events. The focus of this would be to engage more widely with the community, sharing what we have to offer, but also being a Christian presence within Holbeach. –
- To develop and grow Café Church as an informal and accessible service that might be a good starting point for people of all ages and families to attend. This would require developing a team to deliver the services and a marketing plan.
- To address the building and how we can shape the incredible space we have to grow and develop our ministry and mission, creating a space that is welcoming and flexible for a variety of uses, most importantly worship.

Minutes for the day and the full action plan may be found in Appendix 1.

All the local schools are now booked in for a number of services, a great opportunity to welcome families and children into All Saints and also invite to our other Christmas services.

Advent courses will be starting at the end of November, with 2 running, 1 during the day and 1 in the evening.

Care home services are booked for the Christmas period providing an opportunity for them to engage with the Christmas story and sing carols which is always welcomed.

On the 24th November we have been invited to host the Deanery Partnership service, which will be a good occasion to begin to build relationships as we look to working across a wider area.

Kim asked whether this service should be opened up to other choirs in the Deanery to sing with All Saints Choir. It was agreed that Sherine would send an email to Carolyn to ask all churches in the Deaneries whether any choir members would like to join the All Saints choir. Kim would then make the necessary plans for any practice time before the date of the service.

Main Items:

Christmas Tree and Craft Fair update

- 26 stalls have been booked – 25 inside the church and one will be just outside selling wreaths
- 12 organisations have been booked to decorate trees
- Lists are in church for people to sign as Welcomers, making refreshments and help with serving refreshments– as last year this will be limited to cakes, scones and sausage rolls
- Some volunteers will also be needed to help with tombola and raffle (Gill and Lynne will sort this out)
- A plan has been drawn up to show where everything will be placed – tables, boards and tree holders will be put in place on Thursday, 28th; most crafters and tree decorators will set up on Friday, 29th (trees arriving at 8.00 a.m. that morning)
- Public will be admitted from 10.00 on Saturday 30th; stalls will close at some point between 16.00 and 17.00 depending on footfall. Carols outside the church at 17.00.
- The Parish Council is running the outside event from 13.00 – 18.00.
- Posters and social media advertising is now ongoing – with many thanks to Kevin and Martin

- Cost of the trees has been generously donated – with many thanks to Chris and Christine Penney. Refreshments, craft stalls, tombola and raffle will all be positive income with no expenses outlay, hopefully.

Discussion followed regarding whether the ramp to the chancel area should remain in place or whether this was a hazard when there are many people going around the church. If there is no ramp, that would disadvantage people in wheelchairs or parents pushing a buggy. Roger suggested a smaller ramp might be made which would be easier to put in place when it became necessary during the event.

Advent and Christmas services

Services during December, of which there are many, are in the process of being organised, printed and arrangements made for readers etc

Charitable Giving

Following discussion it was agreed to give some of the collections at Christmas services to various charities. There will be specific collections at the Carol Service on 15th December and Midnight Mass on 24th December. The collection at the Christingle service on 15th traditionally goes to the **Children's Society**. Other suggestions were to send donations to **Centrepont, Boston** and the **Disasters Emergency Committee**. Envelopes will be available for people to make donations and slot them into the safe throughout the month. Details will be given on the pew sheets each week. It was also suggested that at some point we might consider giving a donation to the Diocese's 'Ready for School' Fund.'

Churchwarden Report: Roger Jennings

- 1) We have received the quotation to replace the four spire and four tower flood lights, two of the security boxes that house the lights, a new timer, and a Kwh meter installed to monitor the costs of running the lights. This has been submitted to the sponsor who has approved the costs despite it being a greater amount than previously indicated due to the timer and meter costs. It is anticipated that the works can be carried out and completed by the end of November and in time for the Christmas fair etc. *Letter will go to the Parish Council so that they are aware of these developments. It was agreed to reinstate the more general sponsorship of lights that helped with costs in previous years. Members were delighted that it all sounded a very exciting development, particularly as there will be coloured lights according to the season of the year.*
- 2) We have cleaned out the south aisle roof gutter and down pipes in an attempt to prevent blockages caused by windblown leaf debris and subsequent

ingress of rain water in to the choir vestry this autumn/winter. I wish to record my thanks to Mick Boylan for his assistance to me with this work.

- 3) The Energy Audit has been carried out at All Saints and we are awaiting receipt of the findings and report.
- 4) Further works have been carried out in the area around the church that is our responsibility, to clear overgrown vegetation etc. and I record my thanks to Mick Boylan for the continued support with this work.
- 5) The issue regarding the Invoice in respect of GBSG's investigation into the faults they reported with the roof alarm batteries and camera has not been resolved. I have written to them again detailing why I do not consider that we should be liable for their costs in this matter.
- 6) The meeting with the DAC has been agreed to be held on 15th November to discuss the possible alterations within the building and alternative heating options.
- 7) Due to comments made and as our existing gas supplier's contract remains in place into December it has been agreed that the heating will be left on at 15 deg until the end of that month. That will need reviewing in January as we will then be under the new tariff, the implications of which have been previously discussed by the PCC.
- 8) Pumping and Drainage have serviced the toilet drain system and have advised that the pump, which had previously shown signs of deterioration in 2022, should be considered for replacement as it may fail at any time. Clearly it may continue to function for a further year but with the forthcoming events this year and those planned for 2025 I consider it prudent to have the works carried out rather than wait for it to fail. P & D have indicated that the replacement pump cost will be in the order of £750.00 plus VAT. I am hoping to obtain a confirmed quotation in advance of this meeting and will table it accordingly. If the PCC agree to proceed with the work then I will submit a claim for a grant towards this cost from the Mary Bass Charity.

See Resolution 1

An additional problem has arisen in the south aisle with water ingress and after discussion a Resolution was put forward to install an additional lead apron to prevent rain water entering this area of the church.

See Resolution 2

Treasurer's Report and Financial matters

See Appendix 2 for Financial Statement

The following points were made:

- Overall financial situation is much better than for a few years – thanks expressed to Chris Penney and Carole Warner for the huge amount of work they have carried out during the past year to ensure 2021 and 2022 accounts are now fully up to date and audited.
- £4320 is noted on the Financial Statement as the payment to the auditors, who had not received anything for 3 years.
- Thanks were expressed to the Mary Bass Charity for the help they give throughout the year to help with maintenance of the Church and specific projects towards Ministry and Mission, ensuring a healthy growth of the Church, essential for its future in Holbeach.
- Payments will continue to be made from Mary Bass for our Deanery Youth Worker and Deanery Administrator.
- It was suggested that we could send a further additional payment of £1000 towards our Parish Share agreement for 2024.

See Resolution 3

- Carole explained the situation regarding payments to charities made at funerals. All Gift Aid payments and Bookkeeping are up to date.

A.O.B.

Kim presented an idea that members of the Congregation, who wish to send Christmas cards, might like to put a collective one to others in the congregation by placing something suitable on a Christmas tree in church. This was generally agreed to be a good idea.

The meeting closed at 20.50 with prayers.

Next PCC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th January, 7.30 p.m. in the MBR.