

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

Tuesday, 14th January, 2025

PCC MINUTES

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

Apologies for absence: Kim Biggs

The meeting opened with prayer

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12th November were read and signed as a correct record by Revd Sherine Angus

Matters arising:

It was suggested and then agreed that PCC Minutes for any meeting should be put as a Draft copy in the church folder, within a week of any meeting, having been proof read and available for at least 48 hours to PCC members before this, to suggest any amendments.

APCM will take place at midday on Sunday 11th May, after the morning service. It is hoped that Reports from the Vicar, Churchwardens and for the Senior and Junior Choirs, Home group, Mothers' Union, Care homes will be given to the PCC Secretary by the end of January, for the year 2024. The Treasurer's Report will be ready for the PCC to approve at the PCC meeting at the end of April.

The new Electoral Roll will need to be completed this year.

Dates of PCC meetings for 2025 were agreed: 11th February, 18th March, 29th April, 10th June, 8th July, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November.

Correspondence:

The following had been received:

Bishop's Christmas letter

Letter re Racial Justice Sunday 9th February

Vicar's Briefing:

The Advent and Christmas season went remarkably well, with thanks to all who helped the many services and events to run smoothly. The Christmas tree festival and fayre was a huge success and we have had a number of positive comments, with thanks again to all who volunteered and especially to Christine Penney and Gill Graper for the co-ordination.

We saw record numbers of schools services which I suspect is largely due to the work that Micki particularly, and I do in going into schools regularly and working hard to promote the church as a place of welcome for all. In total we held 7 schools services for William Stukeley, HPA and UAH and saw over 2200 children and parents come through our doors. These services also gave us the opportunity to promote the services that we had. Subsequently we saw a massive increase for our Crib service and Christingle (running out of oranges!) in addition to double the usual number at our Christmas Day morning service.

All of this is hugely positive and shows, I believe, a growing relationship and connectivity with the community of Holbeach. For those who cannot attend services, the Ministry Team went into each

care home and the Hospital for a carol service which was hugely appreciated, and junior Choir went carol singing around the sheltered accommodation at Cecil Pywell.

Whilst there are many people to thank and I am bound to miss people out, I would also like to thank Kevin and Martin for their work in promoting all that we do through a campaign of facebook posts, posters and preparing powerpoints for some services, and of course thanks to Kim and the choirs for the incredible work and preparation that was put into making Christmas so special this year.

As we look ahead to 2025 our main focus will be on our points of mission identified at the MAP day:

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Junior choir –

Café Church –

Reordering the church/heating

In addition to All_Saints 800, we had our third meeting on Wednesday 8th and we have an excellent programme of events offering a wide range of different things.

The Secretary wished that particular thanks should be recorded for the work done recently, as well as throughout the year, by the Ministry Team in Care Homes: Judy Kelly, Lynne Barkes, Kevin Dodd, Martin Butler and by Roger Jennings, Chris Penney and Mick Boylan for the significant work they have done with regard to the building and financial matters necessary in 2024. PCC were all in agreement.

Main Items:

ALL SAINTS 800

A specific team has met several times to discuss and plan the events for 2025, of which there are now many planned and organised. Chris Penney is coordinating these events and will produce a specific calendar when the events are taking place. A mailshot will be ready soon to send out to Holbeach residents. Particular imminent events were mentioned at the meeting:

- 2nd February: Bishop Nicholas will be presiding at the 10.30 service, which will be followed by cake and prosecco to mark the launch of the 800th celebrations.
- Saturday 15th February, 1.30 p.m. – organ recital given by John Lyon (Boston Stump), preceded by light lunches being available. This needs to be advertised very soon. Three other organ recitals will take place during the year.
- Marion Goodman agreed to investigate the possibility of hosting a picnic and games in Carter's Park.

Lights Sponsorship

The flood lighting of the exterior of the church had been very well received locally. It costs about £17 a week to have the lights on. It was agreed that sponsorship for particular days by members of the public was a good idea and Sherine will write a policy for this, so that the scheme can work very soon. There was a discussion regarding sponsorship costs and agreed that £10 per night would be acceptable. The scheme will be advertised via the pew sheet, the Facebook page, the website, where a specific page will be devoted to the names of sponsors.

Fees for Occasional Offices

Following discussion the fees agreed for 2025 will be:

Funerals: Organist £100, Verger £50

Weddings: Organist £100, Verger £50, Bells £160

At present there will be no cost for heating, but this will be reviewed when the heating of the church has been reordered.

It is not really possible to offer a choir at present, because there are so few adults and the Juniors are not yet trained to a high enough level.

Safeguarding:

Authorisation of ALMs will be renewed for Judy Kelly, Carol Hellen, Lynne Barks and Marion Goodman.

Resolution 1

Sherine reported that for the ALMs, their safeguarding training and DBS will be managed by the Diocese.

Treasurer's Report and Financial matters: Chris Penney

The Financial Statement for 2024 was presented and a vote of thanks given to Chris Penney and Carole Warner for all the work they are undertaking. The Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2021 were also approved and adopted.

Resolution 2

An explanation was given about some problems regarding the donations from funerals for charities, as can be seen from the Treasurer's report.

The December Charity collections did not appear yet in the financial statement as cheques had not been presented. £397.40 had been collected for Centrepont Boston and the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Deanery admin costs were explained. Parishes who do not receive Mary Bass contributions will need to fund the shortfall with regard to paying for Deanery Administration.

It is hoped that the Deanery Office will move to new accommodation in Wrights Mews by 1st March. This will be a more expensive venue but can be put to good use.

Resolution 3

Churchwarden Report: Roger Jennings

- 1) The work to replace some of the church floodlights with LED units was completed before Christmas as envisaged and there are now four floodlights illuminating the spire and four illuminating the north and west elevations of the tower. The replacement units are capable of having their colour changed according to the Ecclesiastical season or otherwise notable events. The sponsorship of the lights, which was a scheme that previously existed but had not been continued for some time, is in the process of being set up again whereby the lights can be

sponsored in memory of a loved one or to celebrate something special. Sherine and I suggest to the PCC that the sponsorship should be £10 per day however we are not offering a 'change of colour' option with the sponsorship for various reasons i.e. clashing with a church season, multiple sponsors on the same day, the complications of having the lights colour change when I, or others, am/are unavailable etc. This proposal will require a PCC Resolution accordingly.

- 2) The roof gutters and down pipes have been cleaned out towards the end of December and a down pipe on the south aisle wall unblocked so it is to be hoped that we will suffer little rain water ingress during the forthcoming months.
- 3) The Energy Audit Report has been received however it is not particularly helpful to us due the size and configuration of the church together with its Grade 1 listed status..
- 4) The meeting with the DAC took place on 15th November and we have received their report. They understand our wishes and are broadly in agreement with our outline proposals regarding the heating of the building and to re-purpose part of the interior to make it a more flexible space for worship and community use. The DAC did not consider that the pews were of such significance that they should remain as they are at the present. Doubts were cast as to whether we would be able to have solar panels fitted to the south roof however although the local authority conservation officer will initially be consulted.
- 5) Our gas supplier changed on 20th December 2024 and we are now in contract with E.on next for a two year period. E.on next have fitted a smart meter to the gas supply so that readings can be taken remotely and we have received our first bill from them for the period 20th December 2024 – 1st January 2025 in the sum of £867.21. Between the 1st January -7th January we had consumed a further amount of gas equating to nominally £420. This is broadly in line with our expectations and as previously reported therefore the internal thermostat in the church has been reduced from 15 deg C to 12 deg C on the 8th January and we will monitor the financial effect of this change over the next charging period and report accordingly.
- 6) We have sought quotations for the change of heating system from gas to electric whereby infrared heaters would be used. The first quotation received is for a 'far' infrared system of the type we have been loaned as a sample and currently in the MB Room. It has been suggested to us that a more effective heating system may be to use 'near' infrared heaters which run at a higher temperature, costing more when running but not requiring such a long 'warming-up' period. This latter type would be mounted and suspended in the form of chandeliers with integral LED lighting and is apparently more suited to larger churches such as ours. It is my intention to visit a comparable church to ours and consult with the Church Warden there to obtain their opinion regarding their effectiveness in heating the congregation etc. We are also looking to install under pew heating in the choir and celebrant areas together with improved lighting in the Chancel area. From the information we have thus far there does not seem to be very much difference in the purchase and installation cost between 'far' and 'near' regimes so the final decision that will be put forward as a Faculty Application will rest on the merits of the right solution for our particular needs both in terms of efficacy and running costs. It is hoped that the Faculty Application may be submitted within the next two weeks for hopeful approval at the month end meeting.

Having looked at different solutions and with visits to and examples from other churches, Roger and Chris had agreed on what the most efficient and best system would be, and this could be provided by a firm in Bournemouth. It will be a very tight schedule to write the Faculty by the end

of January for presentation at the next DAC meeting at the beginning of February, but the Heating Adviser from the DAC has indicated he is happy to support whichever system is chosen.

- 7) The issue regarding the Invoice in respect of GBSG's investigation into the faults they reported with the roof alarm batteries and camera has now been resolved by agreeing a 50% reduction of their bill.
- 8) Pumping and Drainage have replaced the pump from the toilet which is now in good working order.
- 9) Due to the age and difficulty with some of the church locks and damage caused by the 'break out' of intruders last year we have obtained new locks for the North door, the Choir Vestry and Sacristy which will be fitted over the ensuing weeks. I have the list of key holders from my predecessor and once the locks are changed new keys will be issued to those requiring them and the old keys returned. Although there was no deposit paid by a key holder in the past I would like the PCC to discuss and consider a nominal deposit to be paid by the key holder which will be returned upon surrender of the key – *a deposit of £25 was suggested which would be refunded when keys were returned.*

Resolution 4

A.O.B.

The meeting closed at 9.05 with prayers.

Next PCC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th February, 7.30 p.m. in the MBR.