

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

PCC MEETING

TUESDAY, 14th OCTOBER 2025

7.30 p.m. Deanery Office

Present: Roger Jennings (Chair), Chris Penney, Jackie Sheldrake, Mick Boylan, Ingrid Jennings, Janet Glenister, Kim Biggs, Carole Warner, Gill Graper (Secretary)

1. Opening Prayer

2. **No apologies for absence.** One non attendance.

3. Minutes of last meeting (September)

Resolution: The Minutes for the September meeting are a correct record.

Proposed: Carole Warner

Seconded: Ingrid Jennings

All present in agreement

Chris questioned why a confidential item discussed was not minuted anywhere for PCC members. Apologies given by Gill.

4. Correspondence

- Letter from Diocese regarding Bishop's Christmas Card Competition
- Strategy Engagement Information from the Diocese – it was agreed that this should be sent to all PCC members. Chris has already signed on for the local meeting on 27th November at St Marys, Spalding

5. Churchwarden's Report (Building/Property)

- 1) The investigation work required to be carried out to the mid-section of the south aisle roof is now due to be carried out from 4th November. This has been largely delayed owing to the availability of the required skilled labour. We also have recently experienced rain water ingress in close proximity to the organ console which is being protected from damage by polythene sheeting. This will also need further investigation; however, the likely problem is probably on the high nave roof.
- 2) The organ was tuned as arranged and I understand that the last recital was successful in terms of the instrument's reliability and performance.
- 3) There was a misunderstanding regarding the cloth required to replace the altar cloth so this has not yet been done. I anticipate that it will be attended to very shortly. ***Thanks expressed to Sue Boylan for carrying out repair work so successfully, so a replacement altar cloth is not necessary now.***
- 4) The Silver Birch tree that had died on the north elevation and adjacent to the wall separating the churchyard from the High Street path has been cut down and removed.

- 5) I am extremely grateful to all those volunteers that came forward to enable the church to be open and attended during the Summer Holiday period and the rota now needs to be re-visited for the forthcoming Half Term, School Christmas Holidays and Saturdays until the end of the year.
- 6) An incident occurred when two stewards were in the church in early September which has been reported to the Police and Diocesan Safeguarding Team. The Police are awaiting the latter to contact them in order that they can progress dealing with the incident. Concern has been expressed to me regarding perceived risks to stewards since this incident.
- 7) The Deanery Administrator has done a remarkable job in securing the resources of the Clergy to undertake the regular and special services in the period until Christmas such that there are only two services that are yet to be covered. **I record my thanks to Caz for her efforts in this regard.**
- 8) I apologise and regret that due to an administrative error the Evening Holy Communion service on the first Sunday in September did not have a priest in attendance.
- 9) I have requested that the schools Christmas services are held as close as possible to each other during December in order that the church heating can be put on for a limited period of time to be as efficient as possible and Micki Carey-Slater is assisting in arranging this. *A rota has now been drawn up by Micki.*

There was general agreement that the churchyard is now looking much better and we are very grateful to the one or two people who are keeping it so tidy on a regular basis.

6. Church opening times and Stewarding

Roger explained that someone had complained that they are not happy about the church being closed at 3.00 p.m. on weekdays. There have been comments made on a Facebook page. Closure at this time is to protect both the building and people who visit the church. It is a common practice in many churches now. It was agreed that the situation could be revisited in the spring when the days become lighter for longer.

During half term week (27th – 31st October) the church will only be open for 2 hours each day and a rota was organised for this:

27 th :	10 – 12.00	Doreen Naylor and Chris Penney
28 th	2.00 – 4.00	Jackie Sheldrake and Gill Graper
29 th	10.30 – 12.30	Janet and Philip Glenister
30 th	2.00 – 4.00	Sue and Mick Boylan
31 st	10.00 – 12.00	

It was also agreed that the Saturday openings from 10.00 – 12.00 should have a regular rota of people. It will be possible to offer teas and coffees – and sometimes cake! Gill will organise this, hopefully before the first weekend in November.

Discussion followed regarding the Church Calendar. There have been some problems recently when people have come to the church for a specific reason, but found that there was a service on at that time. Because there will be more services etc in the period coming

up to Christmas it is important to keep the calendar updated. Caz records everything that she is informed about. Roger and Gill have access to that calendar and Kevin also receives information that is recorded on the website. Moving forward it was agreed that it would be a good idea to have a list of specific events for each week/month on a church noticeboard. Details for this need to be finalised.

7. ALM Licences

It was confirmed that Joyce Fines has stepped down from being an ALM.

The following members of the congregation are licensed as ALMs:

Marion Goodman, Carol Hellen, Judy Kelly

RESOLUTION: PCC is in agreement that Carol Hellen should be authorised to work across the Deanery as an ALM.

Proposed: Roger Jennings Seconded: Gill Graper All in favour

8. Vacancy

Roger had heard nothing further from the Diocese regarding their plans for All Saints.

9. Services/Events to end of December

A number of points were made about the services to expect

- 21st December – no priest is available for the 10.30 Communion, but it may be possible to ask Paul Arnold (Holbeach Fen) to take a Service of the Word. In the evening Jane Sievers will be conducting the Blue Service
- Whilst there will be a Midnight Mass on 24th December, there is no priest for Christmas morning. Carol Hellen has offered to take a Morning Worship. It was agreed that she might also be asked to lead the Café Church on 7th December
- Holbeach Community group has asked to hold a Christmas event centred around the church on 20th December from 11.00 – 4.00. Many thanks to Christine and Chris Penney for organising Christmas trees in the church once again. David Shepherd will be asked to play the organ for the Community Carols that will be organised towards the end of the event. The church will be open for teas/coffees/cakes during the day.

10. 800th update and events to end of the year – events moving forward to 2026

Carole Warner still has a few events that she has organised and hopes that the craft events could continue to be held next year on occasional Saturday mornings.

Spalding Community Choir will be giving a concert on 22nd November – Ingrid is organising all the details for this and posters are now available.

11. Treasurer's Report

Chris presented the Financial Statement for the year up to 30.09.2025. It was pleasing to note that Income was greater than Expenditure up to this point in the year, but we need to remain cautious about how much we can send to the Diocese this year, as in the coming months the costs of heating the church for certain services/events will be much higher. It was agreed to wait until the end of December to send any further amount to the Diocese, by which time the amount raised through Gift Aid should be known.

Once again the PCC is very grateful to Mary Bass for the contributions they continue to make and they have agreed to pay 60% towards the repair of the organ.

Collections for Charities after Funerals were discussed and it was agreed that Caz should send a letter of thanks to the donor(s) when either a Charity or All Saints benefits from the collection.

Thanks expressed to Chris Penney and Carole Warner for all their work on the finances.

12. Affiliation to the Bell Restoration Fund

RESOLUTION: It is proposed that All Saints pays a donation of £50 to be affiliated to the Bell Restoration Fund

Proposed: Chris Penney

Seconded: Roger Jennings

All in favour

13. William Stukeley Governors

A question was raised regarding the number of Foundation Governors there should be for William Stukeley Voluntary Aided School. It was felt there should be greater representation of church members on the Governing Body. Chris had explored this issue with Paul Thompson, but it was carefully explained in a letter as to why there were only two Foundation Governors, and this was because of exceptional circumstances. It is hoped that when vacancies occur on the Governing Body church members could be appointed. A letter to the school will be sent regarding this situation.

14. Junior Choir

PCC acknowledged how good it was that 8 members of the Junior Choir had been to Boston Stump for a combined junior choirs event, recently, with representatives from 3 churches and thanked Kim for all her hard work in preparing them for this event.

Moving on from this the PCC asked if it would be possible to encourage the members of the Junior Choir to attend church on Sunday mornings more regularly. With the numbers of senior choir members being so low at present it would be good to have as many Juniors as possible every Sunday. Kim explained the difficulties she faces in terms of preparing for services with the youngsters and encouraging greater participation. Following a useful and supportive exchange of views it was agreed that a meeting would be held after Christmas with the Junior Choir parents and explain to them the importance of the children coming on at least two Sunday mornings each month.

15. Safeguarding

There are two ongoing matters that have been passed on to the Diocese to deal with.

16.A.O.B.

Report from CTEE meetings: Jackie Sheldrake

CTEE meeting 5.09.25

This was a general meeting reviewing and planning future events and activities.

The appointment of a new chairperson was confirmed as Kevin Wheeler of St Matthew's Church Sutton Bridge. This is initially for a period of 6 months.

Towards the end of the meeting Melanie Carrol, the Mission Enabler for Lincoln Diocese gave a talk on her work within Churches Together In All Lincolnshire.

CTEE International World Day of Peace Service 21.09.25

A World Day of Prayer service was held on Sunday 21 st September at 7.00pm at Holbeach Baptist Church. The service was planned and led by members of the Baptist Church with all other church representatives involved in its delivery. It was a well-attended and inspiring service with representatives from a wide range of Christian churches from throughout our area attending.

CTEE Prayer Group Meeting 13.10.25

7.00pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church Holbeach. This will be the first inter-denominational prayer meeting in what is hoped to be a regular event. Venue and dates of future meetings are yet to be confirmed.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday 18 to Sunday 25 January 2026

CTEE Service - Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7.00pm

Theme for the week of Unity is 'One Body, One Spirit.' Ephesians 4:1-4

Report from Home Group: Carol Hellen

The group continues to be well supported. We have now moved to an online presence so that some of the less able or further afield members can join in during the darker months. There is a core group of about 6 attendees, and this term we have had 3 new members join us, but at times up to 10. The group is facilitated by two Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs). We continue to explore Bible in a variety of ways; this season we are exploring The Parables using the Life Builder Study Book: The Greatest Stories Ever Told by John White. There are still a couple of spare copies available should anyone wish to join us. They are £6.50 each,

Please speak to Carol Hellen if you wish to join us online.

We meet every Wednesday at 6:30pm and share our faith in fellowship for an hour or so.

Care Homes Report: Judy Kelly

Our aim is to visit all 4 care homes in Holbeach, as well as the hospital, once a month. However, a few adjustments have had to be made recently. Patchett Lodge is having staffing problems, so we have made a new arrangement with them. They will contact us a day before our planned visit if they are able to give us the necessary member of staff to stay with us throughout our short service. This is vital for health and safety.

We had problems with Holbeach Meadows concerning our rota due to Churches Together

arranging additional visits by other churches in Holbeach. However, this has been sorted out now, as they have got their own rota to follow, which does not encroach on ours.

17. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 11th November 7.30 p.m. in the Deanery Office

18. Closing prayer

The meeting ended at 10.10 p.m.