

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH
PCC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 7th JANUARY 2026
7.30 p.m. Deanery Office

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

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies for Absence: None

3. Minutes of last meeting (November) These were agreed as correct and signed.

Matters arising not being dealt with later in Agenda

- **800th History booklet** – now that Geoff Taylor is well again he will be able to complete the QR Codes for the church. Jackie has passed on the booklet to Kevin and Martin who have kindly offered to print copies. It is hoped these can be ready by the end of January.
- **Heated Cushions:** Roger explained that we should soon get a decision about the grant funding of these as the review of the application is on 20th January.
- Kim explained she was meeting with Neil Simons and Micki Carey-Slater on Friday with regards to **Junior Choir** and hopes then to fix a date to invite all Junior Choir parents for a meeting.
- Gill will ensure an email is sent to all Churchwardens and PCC Secretaries to **advertise our two Sunday evening services each month** in the hopes that more people will attend from across the Deanery.
- **Floodlighting** – although it has been advertised on the website the response has been disappointing and Carole expressed her wish for a different approach that expresses our care and understanding for those who have been bereaved. It was agreed to put suitable wording to advertise the scheme near the Memorial book and in the porch. The cost of postage to all bereaved families, with regard to the annual All Souls Service, is not really sustainable, so Caz will be asked whether contact by email may be possible, with consideration for GDPR.

4. Correspondence

- Announcement regarding next Bishop of Grimsby
- Christmas greetings letter from Bishops of Lincoln and Grantham

- Email from Alastair Ward regarding services and courses that have been organised for his parishes and across the wider Deanery. A summary will be put on notice boards.

5. Churchwarden's Report

1) No further work has been done to investigate the cause of rain water ingress to either the south aisle or the north aisle gutter areas since my last report.

2) The heating was on, as intended, for more or less all of December as it was more efficient to do this in view of the number of funerals, school and church services throughout that month. Going forward it will be turned on on Saturdays for the service(s) on the following Sunday and then turned off in order to save costs.

3) Whilst all services until Christmas were covered by visiting clergy, the future availability of clergy to cover whilst we are in vacancy is less certain. Currently we are experiencing difficulty in finding cover for the HC service on the second Sunday in the month and therefore that will likely be a Morning worship service led by one of our ALMs. This does also mean that the first two Sunday morning services in the month will not be HCs, which in my opinion is less than ideal. We have experienced two Sunday services when the member of clergy did not arrive in time for the service and on these two occasions a Morning Prayer service was taken at short notice by Judy Kelly, for which I am extremely grateful to her.

The latest news is that Revd Nick Nawrockyi from Lincoln is willing to come from February, for hopefully the second Sunday of each month, to take a communion service at 10.30 a.m.

4) Meetings have been had at Deanery and Mary Bass Charity Trustee levels with Bishop Nicholas and Arch Deacon Gavin regarding the vacancy situations throughout East Elloe Deanery. The vacancy at Long Sutton was advertised with no applicants coming forth and it is not currently being advertised. The vacancy at All Saints has not been advertised and with the current level of Covenants being made for 2026 the Diocese are re-assessing the number of clergy that may be allocated to the Deanery with all options being considered. It is fair to say that the two current full time clergy in the Deanery are unable to take on any further work unless the numbers of services are reduced. Naturally as soon as further and better particulars or progress in this regard are known then these will be communicated to the PCC.

5) The Holbeach Community Christmas event was a success in terms of the number of people who visited the church, the craft stalls, our catering and the

Community Carols. The organisers of the day have indicated that they would like to hold further events in 2026 to try and help the church.

6. Church opening times, Stewarding Rota, Coffee/Tea prices and float arrangements etc for Saturdays.

It was agreed that a new price list should be used from January for teas and coffees on Saturday and Sunday mornings - £1.50 a cup. Biscuits would be free. A float will be available and the till will be in use in the kitchen for sales. There will be a cash book to indicate how much is taken, and details of how to use the Sum Up digital card payment machine will be available. It is hoped that on some Saturdays, particularly 2nd one of each month, there will be a special event or craft stall available. Hopefully as time goes on the Saturday sessions will become more popular with an increase of visitors from across the community.

7. Vacancy, clergy availability and Services in the future

Roger explained that two meetings had taken place with the Deanery and a further meeting with the Mary Bass Charity members. It remains a difficult situation and very little has changed. It is hoped that there may be a way forward to fund one more priest for the Deanery, but it is and always has been difficult to find priests who will apply to this area of Lincolnshire. We have also been advised that priests, newly trained by the Lincoln Diocese, may apply anywhere in the country for their first post.

Plans are being put in place to cover services from January to Easter, but it is unlikely that All Saints will be able to offer all the services that we normally have during Easter week.

The following summary gives an outline of where plans stand at the moment:

Ash Wednesday: A Deanery service at Moulton in the evening. The Wednesday morning service at Holbeach will be a said Ash Wednesday service.

Palm Sunday – 5th Sunday of month – the usual procession from the old Library could be followed by a Morning Worship. A BCP Holy Communion service in the evening could be offered at All Saints.

Holy Week – ALMs will take a Compline service in the first 3 weekday evenings, as they did last year.

Maundy Thursday: Whaplode is organising a Benefice Passover Meal and members of All Saints may wish to go there. It seems unlikely that there will be a service at Holbeach that evening.

Good Friday – usual Walk of Witness will start at All Saints and end at the Catholic Church – subject to agreement by other churches, Jackie to advise.

2.00 p.m. at All Saints – At the Foot of the Cross service could be taken by ALMs

Easter Day – first Sunday of the month – will not be a Café Church, but there will be an Easter Dawn Service outside the church at 5.35 a.m. followed by breakfast and there is still the possibility that a priest may be found to take a Communion service during the day or evening.

8. Heating and occasional expenditure

Situation with regards to heating the church is still a huge problem in terms of cost. During December, when heating was kept on for all the various services and special events during the month cost £1,753.

9. Treasurer's Report

Financial statement for the year was presented. *Copy attached to the Minutes.*

The accounts will now be sent for auditing ready for the APCM. £20,000 has been sent to the Diocese for our Parish Share, but £5500 of that amount is from the Mary Bass Charity.

Significant points to note:

- 800th events showed an overall small profit during the year
- There are tax and VAT refunds anticipated
- There is a small surplus in the overall funds at the end of the year.
- Christmas event organised by Holbeach Community group, but with helpers from the church as well, was a success and made a good profit of over £600 during one day.
- It was agreed that small events to raise money during Saturday morning openings would be a good idea.
- It was also agreed that a charge of £1.50 should be made for cups of coffee and tea on Saturday and Sunday mornings

10. Holbeach Community event review

It was agreed that more of these type of events should be organised, but with a greater amount of help from members of the congregation. A Flower Festival during the late May Bank Holiday weekend was a suggestion that was approved by members of the PCC. Steven and Isabel are both willing to work with the church to organise more events during the year.

11. Safeguarding

Deanery Administrator had reported that there were no ongoing concerns and all training and DBS checks were up to date at present.

12. A.O.B.

- **Midnight Mass** – this had been well attended but there was a shortage of service sheets. It was agreed that greater use should be made of the screen, particularly for special services. It had worked well for the Christingle and Crib services. A laptop will need to be bought and an account set up to help access the necessary information and use of the screen. Chris and Mick have agreed to deal with this project.
- **Churches Together** - Jackie gave feedback from a meeting she had recently attended. There is a Unity Service on 20th January at 7.00 p.m. at the Holbeach Catholic Church. The prayer meetings have been going well and the organisers would like to hold one at All Saints. A Care Home timetable has been set up for 2026 by the All Saints team for their visits. Jackie will give a copy of this to Kevin Wheeler so that the Churches Together team can produce their programme in Care Homes for the year. There are also possibilities for a Churches Together Café Church. Our Care Home team might be able to add Cecil Pywell to their list of monthly visits. It was agreed to pay the £20 donation to belong to the Churches Together team.
- **Situation with only one Churchwarden** – it was agreed that members of the PCC need to find ways of lightening Roger's load as he is the only Churchwarden now. Fundraising is a particular issue and it was thought to be a good idea to find someone to take on the role of making applications for grants from suitable funding agencies.
- **APCM** – it is hoped that the Annual Meeting can take place before Easter and therefore a date in the second half of March would be preferable. It will depend on the Rural Dean's availability, so a request will be made to her for either Wednesday, 18th March or Wednesday, 25th March @ 7.30 p.m. Venue to be decided but probably the Reading Rooms. Gill will sort out paperwork required and request reports from groups to be sent in by the end of January to make up the yearly booklet.
The Rural Dean has now confirmed her availability for the meeting to be held at 7.30 p.m. on 18th March.

13. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 11th February at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at about 9.45 p.m. with prayers