

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH
PCC MEETING
TUESDAY, 11th NOVEMBER 2025
7.30 p.m. Deanery Office

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

Kim Biggs was in attendance as an observer.

1. **Opening Prayer** – Jackie Sheldrake
2. **Apologies for Absence** - None
3. **Minutes of last meeting** (October) and **Matters arising**, not being dealt with later in Agenda
The Minutes were signed as being a correct record. All in favour.

Strategy engagement meeting –Chris Penney, Roger and Ingrid Jennings, will be attending this event

800th events:

- Jackie Sheldrake confirmed that the booklet, about the history of the church that she has written, is now with Kevin and Martin, who will set it up professionally for printing. Some thought needs to be given as to the price for people to purchase the booklet.
- Ingrid Jennings gave some details regarding the Spalding Community Choir concert on 22nd November. 50 members in the choir who will be rehearsing from 5.00. Church helpers should be there from 6.30. Admission is £10. Interval drinks will be available.

Meeting with Junior Choir parents – Kim has agreed to find a suitable time for a meeting in January.

4. Correspondence

Safeguarding document from the Diocese already circulated.

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 underway. At the time of writing this report the roof has not been examined, however the lead worker is anticipated to return before the PCC meeting to inspect the south aisle, the nave roof adjacent to the organ console, the chancel roof above the choir organ and the Lady Chapel roof where further ingress of rain water has been noted.
- 2) All services until Christmas have now been covered by visiting clergy. Revd. Barbara Hutchinson has been taken ill, however the services that she was due to take have been covered by others and I wish her well for a speedy and complete recovery. Discussion is required by the PCC as to the options available for a morning service on Christmas Day.
- 3) Weddings and Funeral services have the option of requesting, and paying, for the church heating to be on. At a Wedding in October the heating was requested and the sum of £120, agreed by the PCC previously, paid. The heating was on for approximately 14 hours and

cost £105. As we move into the winter period the ambient temperature within the church would be expected to be lower, therefore the heating may need to be on for slightly longer to reach the pre-set temperature of 15 deg C.

- 4) Following the meeting in September between the PCC and Bishop Nicholas and Arch Deacon Kirk and in response to an email that I had sent to Emma Camm asking about progress on the vacancy including feedback from this meeting I received an email by way of reply, in Emma's absence, from Bishop Nicholas which has also been replied to. The initial email not only contained some criticism, which I did not agree with, of the PCC regarding the lack of publicising our situation and opinion within the Deanery, but also made no reference to the amount of money that the Mary Bass Charity gift to their parishes and therefore ultimately towards the Diocese, without which it would be reasonable to assume that the Covenants would be lower. As at the time of this report I have yet to receive a response.

Roger shared with the PCC the email he had sent to the Bishop and the reply. It seems possible that, because there are now only two full time paid priests in the Deanery (18 churches) and a decreasing number of non-stipendiary priests to help, as well as no applicants for a post that had been advertised for another Benefice in the Deanery, the Diocese will possibly need to formulate a different plan to ensure there is sufficient cover for our Deanery. It may be that the Diocese could appoint a temporary priest to come to the area to alleviate the situation. The division of the Deanery area may need to be redefined as the total covenanted by the Deanery only allows for the costs of three Stipendiary posts. The Bishop is keen to meet with the Mary Bass Trustees to discuss the financial situation for parishes.

Addendum to Church Warden (Fabric) report

Subsequent to my earlier report and following the recent investigation into the roof leaks within the church I can provide further and better information as follows:

- a) The timber that has fallen away from the underside of the south aisle has done so because it is only fixed at one end. With the ingress of rain water in that area I presume that there has been some movement of the timber roof construction and as a result some of the boards now require re-fixing in an appropriate manner. A joiner will be coming to the church to do this work shortly and will be securing the boards in a concealed fix manner so that the scaffolding can then be removed. There is no obvious evidence from the internal inspection as to exactly how and where the rain water dripping on the pews in that area is coming in from. The ensuing external inspection was to some extent inconclusive as there is still no obvious damage to the lead roof however the low level flashing to the Clerestory wall was loosened and a lead sealant applied locally in case the water is able to come over the top of the flashing. The only other area where it may enter is through the rolled lead joints; however to remove these will undoubtedly damage the lead thus necessitate replacement of sections of the south aisle roof lead covering. I shall monitor the effects of the sealant work before reporting further with an appropriate costing.
- b) The Chancel roofs over the Choir organ and adjacent to the organ console do not appear to have any obvious damage when viewed from a ladder, however to closely examine these will necessitate the erection of a fixed scaffold and removal of sections of the roof lead.

- c) The leaks in the Lady Chapel appear to be due to a previous ineffective repair to the monopitch gable end flashing and the rotting of the gutter in that area. I have requested a quotation for the scaffolding and necessary materials to remove the lead gutter lining, replacement of the timber gutter construction and relining with lead together with the necessary remedial work to the flashing over the gable end.
- 5) Following a recent Christening service when a number of vehicles were parked on the consecrated grass verges and having discussed this with the Deanery administrator I suggest to the PCC that two signs are made that can be placed at the road end on either side of the drive way towards the West door worded as follows, or similar, "PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE CONSECRATED GRASS VERGES". These signs should be used for all Christenings, Weddings and Funerals to prevent a re-occurrence of this unfortunate matter and stored in the church.

It was agreed, after discussion, that three signs are probably necessary to cover the area where cars may park. Roger will inform the Parish Council, writing specifically to Isabel Hutchinson.

Thanks were expressed to Roger for his expertise and the enormous amount of time he is having to spend on problems with the church building.

6. Church opening times and Stewarding Rota (Saturdays and Christmas holiday)

Gill is compiling a rota for the two weeks of school Christmas holidays so that the church will be open for at least 2 hours each day. Times of opening were agreed. Regrettably the church will have to be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. A rota is full for stewarding on Saturdays and serving coffee on Sunday, until the end of the year. It is hoped that gradually more members of the congregation will offer to help on the rotas.

7. ALM request

A confidential matter requested by Revd Carolyn Bailey was discussed by the PCC and a vote taken. Roger will report to Carolyn.

8. Vacancy

Discussion recorded under Item 4 of Churchwarden's report

9. Services to end of December

A discussion was held regarding the three options that PCC has for a Christmas Day service. It was agreed by all members of the PCC, albeit reluctantly, that there would not be a service held at All Saints on Christmas Day morning.

RESOLUTION: There will not be a service held at All Saints on Christmas Day morning

Proposed: Les Crowson Seconded: Ingrid Jennings

All members of PCC were in agreement

The PCC is very grateful that a priest is coming from Lincoln to take Midnight Mass on 24th December.

The PCC is also very grateful to Micki Carey-Slater who will be organising and leading the Christingle and Crib Services in December. It is likely that no service sheets will be required but everything will be on the screen. She has also agreed to take Café Church on 7th December at 11.00.

Café Church services on first Sunday of each month need further discussion as to who might lead these services.

The PCC is very grateful to Judy Kelly who leads the Evensong service on the third Sunday of each month, although there will not be an Evensong in December. There are concerns about the number of congregation members attending Evensong. Gill will write to all PCC Secretaries in the Deanery and ask them to publicise the All Saints Evensong services to their congregations, as we are the only church in the Deanery that offers this service.

Posters for the Advent and Christmas services can now be printed – with thanks to Kevin and Martin.

10. Heating and occasional expenditure

A charge of £120 for heating is being made for funerals and weddings, from October to March. This needs to be made clear on forms sent out by Caz for these services and Roger needs to be sent the details and times well in advance of events.

The PCC is very grateful for the donation of £1,000 that has been given to help with paying for heating during the Christmas season.

There was a lengthy discussion about heated cushions being purchased for the pews. Roger will deal with this matter by submitting a Faculty application and obtaining a quotation, as it seems a good idea for a 'quick fix' and there is a specified sum of money available from an energy audit that would contribute to the cost of the 50 cushions we would require.

RESOLUTION: Heated cushions should be purchased

Proposed: Chris Penney

Seconded: Carole Warner

All in favour

11. Treasurer's Report (*Financial statement in separate document*)

- Income to date exceeds expenditure by approx. £3,800.
- Refund from Mary Bass towards cost of organ repairs is expected soon.
- Donations include singular donations as below. These are one-off payments and cannot be relied upon on an annual basis. ▪ £2,500.00 towards heating costs – given at the beginning of the year. ▪ £2,000.00 towards general running costs
- A £1,000 grant towards advertising costs for the vacancy is shown within the income section.
- To date we have paid £10,000 towards the covenanted amount of £27,500. as agreed by PCC
- The first significant gas bill of the year has been received – see churchwardens report.
- The deficit on the cost of funding the youth worker will be met by Mary Bass before the end of the year.
- The deficit on the cost of funding the deanery administrator is worrying. We are actively pursuing the contributions from the non-MB parishes and also for photocopying costs

incurred by other parishes. When recovered the monies for photocopying will not cover the costs as the charge out rate we inherited was too low.

- The 800-year celebration activities are showing a reasonable return which is due to generous donations received rather than the making of surpluses on many of the activities that have been run which have been poorly supported.
- The Christmas event on the 20th December will hopefully be successful although funds raised will only be from refreshments sold as we are not looking to have any other fund-raising activities taking place.

Recommendations

- A further £2,750.00 grant from MB in relation to support for covenant payments is expected soon. Recommend that this is forwarded to the Diocese upon its receipt.
- Based on the current figures, which exclude an anticipated tax refund of approx. £2000.00, it is recommended that we make a further payment of £4,500 from our own resources to the Diocese before the end of the fiscal year. This will mean we will have paid a total of £20,000 for the year. i.e., £7,500.00 short of what was promised.
- The funds raised during the 800 celebrations be moved from restricted funds into general funds so that any surplus at the end of the year is available for routine use.
- As we do not look like we will be advertising in the near future the grant from MB (see above) is repaid to MB.

All recommendations were discussed, so Chris asked for a Resolution to be made that all recommendations are agreed.

Proposed: Chris Penney

Seconded: Jackie Sheldrake

All members of PCC in agreement

Kim Biggs gave the final figures for the cycle ride, which she and Andy Sykes had participated in. £726 was collected of which £363 will go into All Saints church funds. Thanks were expressed.

Thanks were expressed to Chris Penney and Carole Warner for all their work on financial matters.

12. Holbeach Community event: 20th December 11.00 a.m. onwards

Details for this event were outlined by Chris Penney. 12 Christmas trees had been ordered and all were now being decorated by various groups in Holbeach from 16th December. Many thanks to Christine Penney for organising this.

Refreshments will be soup, burgers, sausages – there will need to be a rota of people doing the cooking. Hot drinks and mulled wine will be served and possibly mince pies, but there will not be a cake stall. There will be 12 stalls in the church building. Carol Singing will take place at 4.00p.m. near the west door.

13. Safeguarding Nothing new to report

14. A.O.B.

Friends of All Saints: A discussion was held about the future of this scheme, started in 2023 and organised by Kevin and Martin. Unfortunately it had not been successful, despite the huge

amount of time and funding put into the scheme by Kevin and Martin originally. It was agreed that the scheme should be closed down at the end of 2025.

- **Floodlighting:** Carole Warner has agreed to organise this, with names/details of contributors put on the church website and on a board in the porch.

REPORTS FROM CHURCH GROUPS

Care Home team

Some care homes are experiencing difficulties with staffing so are unable to have visits from the Care Home team who hope to provide services on a monthly basis.

Nothing was heard from Patchett Lodge last Tuesday, so the team did not go. A shame, as they know how much the residents enjoyed the monthly visits. Patchett Lodge has cancelled most of the planned visits this year. The team is hoping that they will be able to visit for the Christmas service. All the other care homes are fine.

Judy is pleased to report that she went to Boston last week to complete her Safeguarding Leadership Training. It has proved to be very interesting and useful.

Churches Together

Prayer Gathering event to take place on Monday 17th November @ 7.00 p.m. at Sutton St Edmunds Community Hall, Broadgate PE12 OLR.

Home Group

The online group continues to be well supported with 6 regular attendees. The group appears to work well online, and it is hoped that this mission-based project could be expanded. We continue to explore Bible in a variety of ways; currently with The Parables using the Life Builder Study Book: The Greatest Stories Ever Told by John White. We still have a couple of sessions left of this Study Book and are currently looking at some advent resource options. These have been discussed with the Carolyn Bailey, and she is happy for us to continue and proceed with either of the options. Currently it is looking as though the group is leaning towards the Diocesan Advent course resource, but a final decision will be made later this week. 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.

The group would be happy to support a Saturday morning opening of the Church, offering a warm welcome and refreshments to support the Church at least once a month.

Kim explained about a national RSCM organ playing challenge on 22nd November at 2.00 p.m. She will be playing a particular piece that all organists around the country will play. It was decided that the event would be advertised and coffee would be served from about 1.45. Kim will get something put on this week's pew sheet.

15. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 7th January 7.30 p.m. in Deanery Office

16. Closing prayer

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.