

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

AMP and APCM Minutes

Wednesday, 18th March, 2026

Held at Holbeach Reading Rooms

Present: Revd Carolyn Bailey (Rural Dean), Roger Jennings, Ingrid Jennings, Carole Warner, Janet Glenister, Mick Boylan, Jackie Sheldrake, Tracy Ford, Kim Biggs, Carol Hellen, Joyce Fines, Doreen Naylor, Gill Graper

Apologies: Chris Penney, Michael Slater, Michael Barton

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. **Opening prayers** were said by Roger Jennings
2. **Apologies for absence:** as listed above
3. **Minutes of the previous AMP:**
Proposed that these were a correct record: Tracy Ford
Seconded: Carol Hellen

All in favour

4. **Election of Churchwardens:** Forms had previously been completed

Carole Warner proposed Roger Jennings

Seconded by Jackie Sheldrake

All in favour

Roger Jennings was duly elected

It was unanimously agreed that Roger has been doing a brilliant job in very difficult circumstances, wonderfully supported by his wife, Ingrid. All regular attendees at services recognise the huge amount of work he has successfully achieved during the past year.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence:** as listed above
2. **Minutes of the previous APCM:**

Proposed that these were a correct record: Carole Warner

Seconded: Roger Jennings

All in favour agreed that these were a correct record and they were signed by Revd Carolyn Bailey

3. **Matters arising:** None

4. Electoral Roll: Figures were given by the Electoral Roll Officer, Mick Boylan: 61 names last April. 4 names have been added and 5 names removed. **Total of 60 on Roll at present.**

5. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement were presented and approved.

Proposed: Jackie Sheldrake Seconded: Janet Glenister

All members present in favour.

Chris Penney (Treasurer) had asked for his comments to be noted as follows:

- The decision to downgrade ASH was the correct one as the amount that can be paid to the Diocese does not look like being at the level required of a Key Mission Church in the near future. I believe we could have been more generous in 2025 and recommend that we are in 2026.
- ASH, as I suspect all the Mary Bass Churches do, is too reliant on the money it gets from Mary Bass. Without these cash injections ASH would struggle to pay anything to the Diocese.
- Giving from parishioners is too low.
- There is a concern around the Deanery Office costs. One of the two parishes who had not paid their requested contribution by the end of 2025 has now paid leaving only Tydd as an outlier and ASH £4,500.00 out of pocket. We have already indicated to all parishes what level of contribution is required for 2026, but apart from Moulton, who have raised some reasonable questions, no other parish has made a commitment to pay what has been asked. By the end of March ASH will be approximately £4,500.00 out of pocket and the PCC have decided if that remains the situation then our undertaking to be responsible for the costing and running of the Deanery Office will need to be reconsidered.

There were some useful discussions and a few points noted about why it is so difficult to raise money for the church and how we might raise more in the way of contributions:

- Members of the local community do not make a significant contribution, compared with local villages that often fare better
- Last year's 800th events were not as well supported as we would have wished
- Friends of Holbeach scheme, set up several years ago, has been closed because of lack of support
- We need to encourage more support from local schools and families
- The eventual appointment of a priest should be a major factor in helping with mission. Congregation numbers have dropped significantly in the past few years.

Revd Carolyn Bailey confirmed that the Diocese are well aware of the significant problems we are facing and are impressed by what we are managing to achieve. They are determined to help ASH move forward in the first instance with the appointment of a House for Duty priest.

There were no specific questions asked about the Financial Statements. Huge thanks recorded for the tremendous work and effort given to the management of the Finances by Chris Penney, which are now in a better and more stable position than in recent years. Thanks also recorded to Carole Warner, the Assistant Treasurer.

6. Churchwarden's Report: All reports had been made available in a booklet form for a couple of weeks before the meeting. No questions were asked.

7. Reports from other Church groups available in booklet form.

A point was made as to whether Micki Carey-Slater should have been asked to provide a report regarding her work with children in local schools and with the Moulton based youth group. Kim Biggs had recorded Micki's significant help with Junior Choir members.

8. Deanery Synod Report – this is contained in the booklet. The PCC are kept up to date at monthly meetings, by Carol Hellen's reports, with any significant news from the Deanery. It was made clear that meetings nowadays are joint meetings across the Elloe Deaneries.

9. Election of Deanery Synod Representative:

Carol Hellen remains as Deanery Synod representative for All Saints.

A further Deanery Synod representative is allowed with over 50 members on the Electoral Roll.

Proposal: That Gill Graper becomes a second Deanery Synod Representative for ASH

Proposed: Roger Jennings Seconded: Jackie Sheldrake

All in favour, so Gill Graper was duly elected.

10. Mary Bass Charity

It was proposed that the elected representative from ASH should continue to be Roger Jennings.

Proposed; Gill Graper Seconded: Mick Boylan

All in favour, so Roger was duly elected.

11. Safeguarding Report: The Safeguarding Officer is Caz Dennis and her report was presented.

We have continued to ensure all safeguarding policies and practices are current and up to date, and that all that require training and DBS checks have done so. Thank you to everyone who has completed their Safeguarding Training and DBS checks. We are very nearly up to date. I have emailed those who are 'out of date'.

Actions for PCC/APCM

Outstanding Training/DBS Checks to be completed when they become due
Emails will be sent to individuals when date is near.

Reminder: Safeguarding to be on every PCC meeting agenda

Reminder: Safeguarding is everyone's concern and all those with direct contact to visitors, guests, congregations, care homes etc to complete at least Basic Training (this includes Welcomers, Choir Members, Bells Ringers and Servers)

Safeguarding Concerns/Allegations (Details Never To Be Included):

2 incidents were brought to my attention and all were recorded and dealt with according to the Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding Policies.

A question was raised regarding the number of Safeguarding incidents that had been reported. Clarification is needed on this point and Rev Carolyn Bailey agreed to speak to Caz Dennis about the matter.

12. Election of PCC members: The following people had all been nominated, seconded and were willing to stand – Chris Penney, Mick Boylan, Carole Warner, Jackie Sheldrake, Janet Glenister, Ingrid Jennings, Gill Graper. They were duly elected.

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

TC Group was proposed by Roger Jennings and seconded by Carole Warner

All in favour

14. A.O.B.

Question was raised with regard to fund raising and how to achieve the best outcomes. A number of suggestions were made and in the first instance will be discussed at PCC meetings. It was agreed that it may be useful to have more cohesive teams of people to organise specific events – members of these teams do not necessarily need to be PCC members. Greater involvement from church members and the local community is essential. It may also be a good idea to involve more professional help with fundraising and grant applications.

15. Closing Prayer was said by Roger Jennings, and Rev Carolyn Bailey was thanked for chairing the meeting and supporting our efforts and vision for the future.