

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH
PCC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 8th APRIL 2026
7.30 p.m. Deanery Office

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

In attendance by invitation: Kim Biggs

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies for Absence: Mick Boylan

3. Minutes of last meetings (March and February) and Matters arising, not being dealt with later in Agenda

Minutes for the PCC meeting held on 11th February were signed as being a correct record.
Minutes for the PCC meeting held on 18th March were signed as being a correct record.

There were no Matters arising.

4. Correspondence (*copies may be viewed in the Minutes file in church*)

- Email regarding the announcement of Bishop Stephen's suspension
- 16th March Pastoral letter to Elloe East from Bishop Nicholas
- 16th March Email regarding arrangements for Welcoming Bishop Jean to the Diocese
- Churches Buildings Team Bulletin
- Arch-Deacon Deanery Visitation service at All saints in June /July – date to be confirmed
- Bishop Deanery Visitation service at All Saints for swearing in of Church Wardens – 31st May.
- Notice re Service of Welcome for Bishop Jean on 26th April at Lincoln Cathedral

5. Churchwarden's Report

- 1) An order has been placed for the repair works to the gutter etc on the North aisle roof and the Mary Bass Charity has agreed to fund 60% of the total cost. It is anticipated that the work will be carried out in late April or early May.
- 2) We are currently awaiting the receipt of the £3k grant towards the cost of purchasing heated pew cushions.

Thanks were expressed to Roger for securing the funding which is helping to support the church.

- 3) We have received £2.5k from the Benefact Trust towards the cost of replacing the roof alarm system and having consulted with Trinitas, our Insurers, regarding the quotations I have received. It is now intended to place an order with G H Security Systems of Spalding to carry out the work once the existing contract with GBSG has been concluded. This contract ends on 30th September and 3 months notice will be given to end the contract.

- 4) No further news has been received since the letter from Bishop Nicholas, that was circulated at the APCM and given to the congregation thereafter, regarding the current vacancy.
- 5) I have submitted an application to the Lincolnshire Co-Op for a grant of up to £1,000 towards the costs of the food etc in providing a soup type lunch following on from the successful Saturday Lent Lunches as a way of attracting more people to the church on a late morning and hopefully growing this aspect of church life. I appreciate that this has not been previously discussed with or agreed by the PCC therefore I would be interested to hear the views of the PCC particularly regarding which day of the week would be considered to be the best for such a venture or indeed if it should be pursued.

PCC all in agreement that it was well worth pursuing this funding. The Co-Op will be shortlisting applications in May 2026, then they will be in touch shortly afterwards to confirm if we've gone through to the voting stage and which communities we will be considered in. The soup lunches have been successful and it seems a good way to encourage visitors on Saturday mornings. It was agreed that initially soup lunches could be offered one Saturday a month. Saturday openings are generating interest from visitors, particularly with the craft events on the second Saturday each month.

6. Flower Festival 23rd – 25th May

Chris reported that Christine has all the arrangements in hand and has a small group of people who are helping with the overall organisation of the weekend event. A further meeting will be held in May to finalise details.

7. Vacancy, clergy availability and Services in the future.

Roger reported that we have not moved significantly forward with regard to appointing a priest, but we have been fortunate in covering most of the regular services with priests or ALMs. The Rural Dean, Revd Carolyn Bailey, will be on sabbatical from 1st May. There is the possibility that the second Sunday in the month will not always be covered by a priest. The 3rd and 4th Sundays will be covered by Revd Mike Ongerth and Revd Nick Nawrockyi from Lincoln.

Kim is hoping there may be the possibility of some organ recitals, as they were successful on Saturday lunchtimes during the 800th celebrations.

There was a lengthy discussion with regard to the once-a-month Evensong service. Very few people attend this service so there are both cost and viability issues about continuing to hold this service.

Roger therefore proposed: Due to lack of attendance and viability of the 3rd Sunday of the month Evensong service, it is proposed that the service is suspended until a House for Duty appointment or new incumbent appointment is made

Seconded: Carole Warner **All members of the PCC were in agreement**

Roger will contact Judy to explain the situation and ask Caz to put details on the pew sheets for a few weeks.

Thanks were recorded to Judy who has taken the service so well for many months. It was recognised that numbers have actually declined over the past 5 years, since Revd Sherine Angus was appointed.

8. Rotas for Easter holidays etc

Stewarding the church for two hours every day during the Easter school holidays has been possible. Thanks were expressed to the 10 people who are fulfilling the stewarding role at this time. Most people who visit the church during the opening times fully understand why it needs to be closed if there is no one there to steward.

It is understood that during the 6-week school summer holidays it may not be possible to keep the church open every day for 2 hours. Gill agreed to see if more members of the congregation would be willing to steward and work on a possible rota fairly soon.

9. Treasurer's Report

Please see attached copy of Financial statements for 1st January – 31st March

A number of questions were raised and answered by Chris Penney or Carole Warner

- History books about the Church, written by Jackie Sheldrake are selling well and there will be a separate heading on the Financial Statements in the future to show the profits made from the books, which were financed by private donations.
- Nothing has yet been paid to the Diocese this year. Consideration will be given to this in the coming months, when the Treasurer has a clearer idea of what we can afford.
- Whilst the Financial Statement accurately states the current overall position further work is required to be done to allocate and breakdown some of the funds received into the individual headings described therein.
- Micki is leaving her post as Children's worker for our Deanery and will in future be working for the Diocese. The Junior Choir are planning to give her a leaving gift. The PCC record their thanks for the contribution that Micki has made to All Saints and particularly the Junior Choir and it is hoped that she will be able to assist with Café Church when available.
- The lease of the photocopier in the Deanery Office has been renegotiated and provides a helpful saving in the operating costs of that facility.
- By the end of April Chris will write again to all churches in the Deanery that have not responded to the letter sent out to them in January that sought their agreement to the proposed contribution that they should be making to the overall costs of the Deanery Administrator and office facility in 2026. Without the agreement of every parish to the proposal then the overall viability of the office would need to be further considered and appropriate action taken as at present there is a significant shortfall.
- There is still one parish that has not made their contribution for the services provided by the Deanery Administrator to them in 2025 and Chris will be contacting them again. Meanwhile no work has, is or will be done for them until the situation is rectified.
- Roger and Mick are hoping to produce all service booklets in a form that may be used on the overhead screen, which will be very useful.

Thanks were expressed to Chris and Carole for all the work they undertake to ensure the accounts are well kept and managed.

10. Safeguarding

- Caz has been informed of one concern
- Caz sends reminders when required for people to update their DBS or training requirements.

11.A.O.B.

- Junior Choir leaders had held a meeting recently. There are two possible Saturday dates in June for a mini choir festival, including choirs from Stamford and Boston.
- On 2nd May some Junior Choir members will be going to Peterborough Cathedral for a musical event, not to participate but to be given a tour of the Cathedral and to be present at a service.
- Use of screen during funerals, weddings etc and to record services. Roger is exploring this idea and hopes to find solutions so that people who are unable to attend funerals will be able to view the service, via a Zoom link.

12.Date of next meeting: Monday 8th June, 7.30 p.m. in Deanery Office

13.Closing prayer was said. Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.