

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLBEACH

PCC MEETING

MONDAY, 27th July 2026

7.30 p.m. Deanery Office

Present: Roger Jennings, Ingrid Jennings, Jackie Sheldrake, Carole Warner, Mick Boylan, Janet Glenister, Gill Graper

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies for Absence: Chris Penney, Kim Biggs (by invitation)

3. Minutes of last meeting (June)

Minutes for the PCC meeting held on 8th June were signed as being a correct record.

Matters arising, not being dealt with later in Agenda

Deanery Synod Meeting on 17th June

- All Saints, Holbeach was the venue for the meeting of the three South Holland Deaneries, and a good number of people attended from various churches from Long Sutton to Market Deeping. The guest speaker was Colin Tomlin from the Diocese.
- Colin leads the Generous Living Team focused on fostering a culture of generosity across our diocese. This team is pivotal in building long term relationships with parishes, local mission partnerships and deanery partnerships in order to increase Covenant Pledge contributions, which is crucial in supporting the financial sustainability of our Diocese. Colin and the team are keen to help parishes explore ways in which they can fund their mission and ministry. He gave a clear message that churches must reach out to communities and find out what we can do for people in our town, rather than talking about what they should be doing for their local churches.
- From 1st July All Saints will sit within the Elloes Deanery Partnership (East Elloe and West Elloe combined). On 8th July there is to be a combined Deanery Service at St Marys and St Nics, Spalding at 7.30 p.m. A number of financial issues were discussed, including the merger of the Deanery Funds, with the exception of monies set aside for mission work with the EELMP. Realistically it now costs £63,200 per stipend, to employ a full time priest. Elloe East can only afford 2.6 stipends. Questions were asked regarding the Safeguarding Hub, which must be used and maintained for all Safeguarding issues. A member of the Diocesan team is working on bringing records up to date with regard to the number of practising ALMs.
- The next Deanery Synod meeting will be held on 22nd October.

It was very regrettable that the service in Spalding on 8th July had not been sufficiently well advertised and therefore very few people attended the service from the former Elloe East parishes. It is hoped that in the future there will be more opportunities to work together and support each other across the Elloes Deanery Partnership.

- **Archdeacon's Visitation Service on 25th June**

Thanks are recorded to Revd Paul Carey-Slater for officiating at this service, although it was generally agreed that it had not been that well attended by the East Elloe Parishes.

- **Choir Robes**

Following a number of problems in deciding on correct measurements for these, they have now been ordered.

4. Correspondence (*copies in Minutes file*)

- Pastoral letter from Bishop Nicholas – *focusing on the future for the newly formed Deaneries in the Diocese*
- Ride and Stride annual event – *details for this will be distributed by Kim*
- Email from Tasmin Mason, Hexagon Care re visit for students to the church - *Roger has replied and it is hoped to organise a visit in September for this group.*

5. Churchwarden's Report

- 1) The repair works to the gutter etc on the North aisle roof has been completed and it is hoped that this work will prevent the ingress of rainwater in the Lady Chapel area.
- 2) The heated pew cushions have been ordered and should be delivered during August.
- 3) The Payaz digital giving tablet and SumUp device in the church has completely failed. I have contacted Payaz and the tablet cannot be repaired and is out of warranty. They provided me with a quote for a replacement tablet and payment device; however, as you may recall this piece of equipment has not been very reliable and as Payaz do not have a help line phone number to contact them with I am not inclined to recommend the PCC to purchase any other equipment from them. Having spoken to the Generous Living advisor at the Diocesan office, seen and researched other suitable units that are available through Parish Buying, and in agreement with our Treasurer, a replacement unit has been ordered from CollecTin which has been trialled and used quite extensively throughout the Diocese. I sincerely hope that this will be a more reliable and effective device for our needs.

Contract has now been signed for the unit, which has arrived and Roger has set up the pay machine for use.

- 4) The votes for the Co-Op Community Champions scheme have been counted and All Saints Church, Holbeach has been successful. This means that they will be raising money for us from 06 Sept 2026 – 06 Mar 2027. It is important to note that in Holbeach there is more than one Community Champion; in this case all the money raised will be split equally between the charities. Please encourage our supporters to use their dividend cards during the fundraising period as this will boost our total. They aim to send the payment to our bank account within 6 weeks of the end of the fundraising period.
- 5) I would like to arrange for volunteers to help with two aspects of housekeeping: (a) to arrange for a skip to be placed in the vicarage grounds so that some of the items in the church that are of no use, broken or in the general category of rubbish/no longer required can be removed from the church and make the building and sacristy tidier and (b) a group

to tidy the memorial area and perimeter of the church to remove the weeds etc that have inevitably sprung up due to the wet spring.

It seems that a number of people from the community may well be interested in helping with gardening tasks around the church. Mick Boylan is happy to start doing jobs in August and hopefully in September others will be approached to help.

The Diocese has informed Roger that the Vicarage is to be redecorated, checked for electrical faults, attending to minor snagging items etc. and that three firms have been asked to submit Tenders for which access will be required.

A skip for rubbish will be hired, probably in September or October, and placed in a secure area on Vicarage grounds. It will then be possible for us to clear out a lot of unnecessary materials from the church.

6. Vacancy

It is disappointing that no further news has been received from the Diocese. An advertisement, which will only run until the end of July, has been placed nationally for a House for Duty post. Unfortunately some of the information in the Parish Profile is incorrect and the Diocese have been informed of this with a request to correct.

7. Stewarding

Thanks go to everyone who has agreed to steward the church, so that it can be open for two hours each day in the school summer holidays. Gill agreed to send reminders each week to those on the rota, so that hopefully there will be no problems.

8. Forthcoming services

The PCC is very grateful to priests who come to take services regularly on Sundays and Wednesday mornings. It has not always been possible to cover all the HC services, but thanks were expressed to the ALMs who are covering the gaps by taking Morning Worship services on these occasions and Café Church on the first Sunday of each month.

9. Treasurer's Report - Financial statement attached

- Mary Bass have paid to ASH the grant of 30% of the promised covenant amount, i.e., 30% of £10,000, and this has been passed on to the Diocese along with 25% of the amount that ASH promised to pay in 2026 i.e. £2,500. If the PCC wish to make further payments at this stage please let me know.
- The money from the Archbishop's Council (£3,000) has been paid to us and as agreed this has been used to pay the majority of the pro-forma invoice for the heated cushions.
- We are in receipt of the £2,500 from the Benefact Trust and this will be used to part fund the cost of the new roof alarm when it is installed. Mary Bass Charity has paid for the rest of the new roof alarm.
- Thanks expressed to Jackie Sheldrake who had given a talk to the Ladies Group about the history of the church and received £50 which has been donated to the church.
- History book, written by Jackie, has been selling well, but there was a discussion about leaving copies out for sale at all times. It was agreed that a few copies will always be

available in church so that visitors have access to them, particularly in the summer holidays. Mick will organise putting prices on copies and that there will be envelopes for people to put money in the safe.

10. Safeguarding

Nothing to report from Caz.

July news from Diocese had been circulated and a copy will be put in the church folder

11. Schools report

Links with local schools

It has been a busy time of year when all the local schools have enjoyed visits to All Saints Church for a variety of reasons:

- Holbeach Primary Academy brought some KS1 pupils to explore the church building and learn something about what they found, completing a spot the item sheet.
- Holbeach Primary Academy Year 6 pupils came for their end of year service. It was very well attended by parents and grandparents who were treated to a feast of memorabilia and some excellent singing by all the pupils.
- William Stukeley C of E Primary visited for their end of term service. The church was packed with the children from all year groups and many parents – standing room only! The service was led by Micki Carey-Slater and all the children contributed with songs, their memories and some wonderful pictures from the youngest year group.
- Year 9 pupils from UAH visited in groups on two separate days and explored the history and heritage of the building and the outside area. They had to complete a booklet of questions and this also resulted in some excellent contributions, giving their thoughts about the building and ideas for a sustainable future for the church.
- Thirteen 6th form pupils from UAH have been involved in an art project for their exam studies, based on what they have discovered when visiting the church on several occasions. The art work is now on display in the church, and is already very much appreciated.

UAH Art Department would like to discuss putting further displays in the church from other year groups at certain times of the year.

12. Churches Together report

Churches Together in England is an organisation supporting and encouraging churches from a wide range of traditions, to work together in Unity.

In East Elloe, the churches are drawn from the Anglican, Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and Free churches. Churches Together in England supports churches from a wide range of traditions; Anglican, Catholics, Pentecostal, Charismatic, Orthodox and Lutheran also Free Churches, Quakers and others, we unite one of the broadest range of churches in the whole of Europe.

Our vision is to create the space in which fruitful collaboration and mutual understanding can grow, so that we as churches work more closely together in our great task of sharing in God's mission, making the Gospel of Christ known in our Nation.

Churches Together in East Elloe - Yes... Churches Together.

A representative group meet regularly to share what some twenty or more different Faith and same Faith churches are doing in our area. They discuss ways of working together and serving God, respecting and enjoying showing they are Christians working TOGETHER in friendship. Over the summer we try to offer BBQ's, Bible Studies, Prayer Gatherings, Cream Teas and Care Home Services. Some offer Art and Flower Festivals. There are distinctive services on Sunday and mid-week, where God our Father is worshipped.

The world has little stability right now to offer, but church groups can help to find answers and comfort, and reliable friendship for all. Leonard Cohen wrote this about our broken world. "There's a crack in everything — that's how the light gets in."

It sort of links with the thought that there can be hope, light and joy, even in dark places. That is what church people want to be.

Hopefully, some of you might like to discover more. Churches Together needs more helpers on our team. **We could do with a Press Officer and someone to be our new Secretary. Does that grab you? If you would like to know more about all this, please don't hesitate to contact us on: 07733366195.**

Jackie attends the meetings and receives information about what is being organised (details in church file). PCC agreed that we could host one of the Prayer Group meetings in church. It would also be helpful to advertise and promote all the activities organised, both on our Facebook page and on the pew sheet when relevant.

13. Memorial Book

It has been difficult to find someone to act as calligrapher for the entries made in the book, which is updated twice each year. At present £15 is paid by anyone who wishes an entry to be made. Carole Warner has been researching who could take on this task or any firms who provide a service to do this. Lengthy discussion took place regarding what this would cost - in terms of making an entry (over £30 per entry +VAT) and the significant safe postage cost of sending the book to a firm and returning (over £70). Based on the average number of entries per year people would have to be prepared to pay in the region of £50 for an entry to cover costs. It was agreed to investigate what other churches and organisations in the area offer with regard to a Memorial Book and the cost of entries, before making any final decision.

14. Organ Recitals

There are two recitals organised: 19th September: Anthony Baldery from Boston
17th October: Chris Strange from Peterborough Cathedral

Thanks expressed to an anonymous donor for funding these events. It is hoped that with wide publicity across the South Holland area they will be well supported. Refreshments need to be organised for these events. Kim will be asked to finalise necessary details.

15. Forthcoming events (10th & 13th August)

- **10th August:** Outside event MBR booked – Pink Afternoon re Prevent Breast Cancer - advertising is in place with posters and notices on the pew sheets – *It was agreed that drinks and cakes should be offered at this event and a few volunteers would be needed to help. Kim and Gill are stewards for that afternoon and Mick has agreed to also be there to help.*
- **13th August:** Holbeach Hospital service and tea in the church organised and led by ALMs

16. South Holland Heritage Group report

As a church we belong to this group, which advertises heritage events throughout the South Holland area. It offers further opportunities for our church to encourage visitors and give talks, furthering the work started last year, advertising the booklet produced by Jackie and putting on displays.

Jackie has been working with Geoff Taylor with regard to the website information about the church and the QR codes that will be produced and placed around the church.

One idea is for Linden Secker, Ken Smith and Nicola to mount a display in the church for one Saturday in the Autumn. Gill would contact Linden to ask if this was possible for Saturday, 12th September on the same day as the Bike Ride.

17. A.O.B.

Floodlights: *The scheme has caused some problems with regard to sponsor expectations. Specifically regarding the colour of the lighting, which has been dealt with by an appropriate caveat in the information and more recently when the lights are timed to be switched on and off. Roger has received complaints regarding the advertising being misleading and/or unclear. He has worked with Kevin to reword the website information in an attempt to prevent any further complaints and extended the turning off time to nominally 2230 hrs. The four spire floodlights have developed faults and he is seeking a quotation to have these replaced with white only.*

18. Date of next meeting: Monday, 14th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Deanery Office

19. Closing prayer was said and the meeting ended at 21.40.