

**Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Landbeach PCC
held in The Old School
on Thursday 18 May 2017 at 7.30 pm**

Present: The Revd Paul Butler (in the Chair), Mr John Buckley, Dr Ray Gambell (Minutes), Dr Stephen Montgomery, Mrs Jane Oakes, Mr Robert Stripe.

1. Opening prayers

Paul led the opening prayers.

2. Apologies for absence

Mr Nicholas Small (Treasurer),

3. Items of Any Other Business for discussion in item 14

None.

4. Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 16 March 2017

4.1 Approval of minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2017 were approved and signed.

4.2 Any Matters Arising

4.2.1 Development Action Planning

John had prepared an overview document summarising the work undertaken by the small group considering our DAP. It was proposed by Robert, seconded by Stephen and agreed by all, to adopt these documents. Further, it was considered that another meeting with the Revd Ruth Adams is not immediately necessary and can be deferred for the time being.

Jane is drawing up a list of equipment and materials to use in our various projects in readiness for a grant application. PCC members will review and help draw up a final version for submission to the Mission Projects Fund.

4.2.2 Cupboard in North Porch.

When a suitable cupboard has been sourced, Richard Oakes will fix it in position (with help).

5. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM was held after the All-Age Service on Sunday 2 April. Two particular matters were raised as follows:

Parking

Barbara Le Gallez had suggested that arrangements for parking at the church should be investigated. As there were no immediately practical solutions, the APCM supported a suggestion from Ruth McArthur that she speak to Tom Poole, the owner of The Old Rectory to see if he would allow limited parking in his garden. Ruth has delayed doing this for the moment because of Mr Poole's ill health. The PCC agreed that the traffic problems would be borne in mind as the Waterbeach New Town scheme emerges.

Carpet

In order to enhance the space available at the West End of the Church some pews have been re-positioned. This has exposed some small off-cuts used as temporary floor covering and the PCC agreed that it would obtain some matching carpeting when the new facilities have been installed in the NW corner.

6. Quinquennial Works & Kitchen

Four tenders have been obtained.

Ray had forwarded the Specification for the works proposed, together with draft Statements of Significance and Need, to the Diocesan office. It appears that the main repairs probably can be authorised by an Archdeacon's Certificate. However, the new flooring, Servedy and removal of pews will probably need full faculty consent and submission to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Faculty permission. The DAC will visit the church on Wednesday 7 June at 3.15 pm to form a view on the proposals.

In the meantime, the PCC agreed unanimously to adopt, on the proposal of Robert seconded by John, the Statement of Significance and the Statement of Need (copies attached) for formal submission with the Faculty request, if that is required.

7. Harvest

At our last meeting we agreed that the Baptist Church would host the service, provide a speaker and offer light refreshments, on Sunday 17 September. Discussions subsequently suggested that we might hold a Harvest themed Pudding Evening in All Saints (see below, item 11.1).

8. Deanery Synod

There has been no recent meeting.

9. Bell Ringers

Barbara Le Gallez has proposed that the bell ringers practise at Horningsea two Fridays every month, instead of only one as at present. She says that having only 4 bells at Landbeach is holding back the group of ringers from improving their ringing abilities. There are very few who still benefit from practising handling and call changes on 4 heavy bells, which is all that realistically they can do at Landbeach. Most benefit much more from practising methods on 5 or more bells.

She commented that, using our building is better from the point of view of the survival of All Saints' as a church and a community asset. But the ringers will still practise here twice a month, and will still ring for services.

The PCC noted these arrangements.

10. Treasurer's Report

10.1 Balances

The statement forwarded by Nicholas was reviewed.

The PCC expressed its thanks to the anonymous donor to the roof alarm, and agreed that funds designated for the roof alarm and its future maintenance, and the Quinquennial Inspection works and Facilities, should be identified in the accounts. John asked, and the PCC concurred, that financial details should be available in a format suitable for budgets and comparative figures.

11. Fundraising / Outreach Events

11.1 Future Events

Summer Garden Party

Plans are developing for the Church Garden Party to be held on Saturday 15 July, from 2.30 to 5pm in the Church and Churchyard. Teas, musical entertainment, an art exhibition, book sales, a cake stall, bell ringing and organ playing, flower exhibits and garden games are being prepared. Ideas for further activities will be developed.

Other

As there will be no harvest meal this year (see 7 above) a *Pudding Evening*, perhaps with a Harvest theme, in October is proposed, the date to be confirmed.

A *Come & Sing Handel's Messiah* is planned for Saturday 10 March 2018. Stephen will also ask if the choir of Little St Mary's could put on a concert.

12. Minister's Items

Paul informed the PCC that he will be delivering the Matthew Parker Sermon in Norwich Cathedral on 28 May, along with associated events nearby.

13. Correspondence

None.

14. Any Other Business

John offered to host a Landbeach Supper in the Black Bull this summer.

15. Date of next meeting

Thursday 20 July 2017.

The meeting closed with sharing the Grace at 9.15 pm.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LANDBEACH

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Landbeach is situated on the edge of the fens, 5 miles north of Cambridge on the road to Ely, which is a further 10 miles. The first written references to the village appear in the *Liber Eliensis* dating from about 950 AD. The first Rector of Landbeach we know by name is Pers de Cantebrigg around the year 1160, and there is evidence of an early church from good Norman stonework that had been re-used in the walls on at least three sides of the building. The earliest parts of the church as we see it today, the tower and chancel, date back mainly to the 13th century. In the mid 14th century the chancel was extended and the tower was rebuilt. The diagonal French buttresses were probably added to the tower in the later 14th century to strengthen the structure for the addition of the spire. The aisles were widened and the south porch added in the mid 15th century. The clerestory was added about the same time when the nave roof was raised, reusing the 14th century tie beams. The church was named All Saints at least by 1439. The Victorian restoration in 1878 included building the vestry, and what became in 1906 the organ chamber, on the site of the former Lady Chapel that was demolished in 1787.

The south aisle was restored in 1980, the north aisle and nave roof in 1983 and the tower and spire in 1985. A North Porch, providing level disabled access and housing a toilet, sink facility and boiler room, were added in 2006. A new and effective heating system was also installed in the church, and at the same time the west end was re-ordered by moving the pews to make a flexible open space for a variety of more informal activities.

The Church is listed Grade I. It stands in an important heritage cluster of closely linked buildings with the Old Rectory (Grade II* dating from the 14th century), and the Tithe Barn on the edge of the Rectory garden (Grade II, 15/16th century). The scheduled ancient monument next-door marks the Manor of Chamberlains (the original Lords of the Manor who built much of the present church), and the mediaeval canal by the Barn linked the village with the Roman Car Dyke, providing transport and connections with the River Ouse, the coast and the wider world. With the development of the Waterbeach New Town of some 10,000 houses just two miles away on the site of the Second World War airfield, All Saints' Church will provide an even more significant and historic feature in the future.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH LANDBEACH

STATEMENT OF NEED

The North Porch built on to the church in 2006 provided a toilet, new boiler and heating system, level disabled access, an internal water supply and a sink facility. It has shown how useful it is to have even such limited facilities available to attract and provide for the users of the building. At the same time as the North Porch was added the fixed pews previously occupying the west end of the nave were moved to make an open space around the font area for less formal activities (including Taizé services, Messy Church, coffee mornings, an Art Group, refreshments and a space for children's activities during All-Age services). Our intention is to develop the serving facility to enhance the use of the building not only for regular worship services but also events which are already taking place in the church, such as concerts, Deanery Synod presentations and Diocesan training programmes.

Because there is a serious problem of damp at the west end of the building identified in the 2015 Quinquennial Inspection we propose to start attending to the issue in the north west corner by removing the crumbling internal plaster, removing the external hard cement surface covering, and replacing both with lime-based materials. At the same time the impermeable tiles on the floor of this corner will be removed and replaced with breathable flooring to combat the damp rising from underneath. While this is done we plan to add a central sink and servery unit on the new floor, with water, drainage and electricity. There would also be a serving unit between the servery and the font area.

The pews at the west end displaced in 2006 are currently arranged against the west wall of the north aisle, between the nave aisle columns at the west end on the north side, and the south wall of the south aisle. There are also two pews on the west side of the entrance from the south door, giving the west end a pleasing appearance of separation from the nave, while still part of it, and forming a restriction to movement of small children in that area.

Most of these pews will be obstructions to the introduction of the servery facility in the northwest corner. They comprise pews of two different dates. Three are in relatively poor condition, dating from the 16th century and were brought from Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge, by the Revd Robert Masters in 1787, along with much other woodwork including the screens still in All Saints'. The other four pews date from the Victorian era and result from the re-ordering of the church carried out by the Revd Bryan Walker in 1878. The pews from Jesus College were placed in the south aisle in the Victorian re-ordering of the church, and the three at the front were moved to the west end to accommodate a chapel dedicated to St James in memory of the Revd R K Denham (Rector 1922 – 1948). At the time of the 2006 re-ordering none of the pews moved in the west end were permitted to be removed from the church.

Our proposal is to retain two of the Victorian pews (in the best condition) to a position just inside the south door, and to dispose of the others. It is possible that the Tithe Barn Trust working to restore and bring into community use the 15 / 16th century Barn adjacent to the Rectory garden, would be ready to house them.