

The Parish of Corbridge St Andrew with Halton and Newton Hall

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.30pm  
In the Church

**Present:**

Linda E Hunter (Chwdn,Chair)	Mike Collins (Chwdn)	Jennifer Wright
Warwick Milne	Suzette Milne	Monica Philbrick
Max Philbrick	Jennifer Herrman	Kate Jenkins
Cliff Wright (Hon.Treasurer)	Michael Rae	Edward Pybus
Anne King-Lewis		

Jennifer Wright opened the meeting with a prayer.

Linda Hunter welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Carol Moffatt as Minute Secretary for the term of the vacancy or a year. A letter from Rev Julie Robson was read out, announcing her intention to retire from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The churchwardens will write thanking her for all that she has done for the parish over the years. Mike Collins is to organise a collection and wine and cake will be served on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. .

**2. Apologies:** David Preece, Jackie Webb, Rev Julie Robson.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were accepted as a true record and signed. Proposed: Kate Jenkins Seconded: Suzette Milne

**a. Matters arising from the Minutes:**

- a. Item 8 – regarding the St Andrew icon given by Sir Miles Irving. After consultation with the Archdeacon it was confirmed that it should not be sent back but a faculty applied for and that it be displayed in the Church. The churchwardens will write to Sir Miles Irving explaining that we would like to display the icon. A valuation to be arranged to ensure adequate insurance cover.

**4. Receive reports:**

**a. Fabric:**

- a. Michael Rae to seek a second quote for woodworm treatment in the choir vestry, to compare with that already received. It was agreed the work needs to be expedited as the woodworm is actively spreading.
- b. On receipt of a full report from D Gibson three quotes to be requested for a new boiler with consideration being given to changing the current location for easier access. Listed permission may be needed to move the balanced flue.
- c. At least two heaters at Halton have failed. Michael Rae to seek an electrical assessment from BW and prices for repair/replacement.

**b. Events Calendar:**

Sales of tickets for the Male Voice Choir concert are slow. A notice is to be posted in the Courant and Linda Hunter to circulate more posters. Proceeds to go to the Church.

**c. Audit of Health and Safety Documentation:**

Michael Rae and Edward Pybus to carry out a self assessment audit of both St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's in light of current guidelines. (recently compiled by Ecclesiastical Insurance) They will report asap and bring forward any recommendations on the understanding that if more work needs to be done then others may be asked to join the group.

## 5. **Vacancy Information:**

- a. **Service Rota.** Pressure continues on the rota particularly in light of Rev Julie Robson's retirement. Help is needed with Home Communion and Paul Morris has expressed a willingness to do some of these. A copy of this minute will be sent to the Area Dean for her approval and then to Bishop Christine who on receipt of a copy of these Minutes will issue a licence for Paul.

**Proposed: Max Philbrick Secoded: Suzette Milne. Agreed: Unanimously.**

Communion Services currently held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month at 8am cannot be maintained. Linda Hunter suggested that only the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service take place and those currently attending on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday attend at Halton or Riding Mill. It was proposed that as from December only one service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month take place at 8am until a new Vicar is appointed. The churchwardens to write to all those attending these services to advise of change and alternative options.

**Proposed: Linda Hunter. Secoded: Jennifer Wright. Agreed: Unanimously.**

- b. **Vicarage.** Necessary work has taken place in the vicarage and a gardener is keeping the grass tidy. Should further garden work be necessary Michael Rae will organise. A six month let is imminent with the option of a monthly rolling let requiring two months notice to quit. The telephone number is now protected by storage in the icloud.
- c. **Praying through the Vacancy:** Monica Philbrick reported on the 9.15am Saturday meeting and it was agreed that a revision of the Vacancy prayer card be undertaken with emphasis on praying together to grow together in God's Ministry, perhaps with suggestions for prayer at home for those unable to get to the Saturday meeting.

## 6. **Profile:**

Max Philbrick reported on the profile progress at the last meeting and it was agreed that there were a number of issues overlapping in various areas. Linda Hunter undertook to review and draw together issues under separate headings – meet again on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and bring to the PCC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

Discussion took place on the appropriate nature of a possible questionnaire to be circulated to relevant bodies in the Church and local community to ensure none feel excluded. Consider whether this could also be done by e-mail invitation.

## 7. **Consultation:**

- a. **Report on comments from afternoon with Rev Catherine Pickford.** Generally agreed to be an excellent afternoon with seemingly simple questions being thought provoking and inviting broader comment. Profile Planning Group to analyse table cloths and report back to next meeting.

It was suggested further thought should be given to what has been valued in previous tenures and concentrate on how we want the Church to grow and what characteristics are needed for this to happen rather than concentrate necessarily on age and life experience of a prospective vicar.

## 8. **Action Plan:**

It was agreed this is a bigger subject than can be covered at an ordinary meeting. An extraordinary meeting was proposed to consider in more detail.

**Proposed: Warwick Milne. Seconded: Mike Collins. Agreed: Unanimously.**

Linda Hunter to circulate possible dates with an invitation to those unable to attend to send their thoughts and ideas.

**Finance:** It was agreed that Cliff Wright be allotted 30 minutes at the next PCC meeting for an overview of the financial position. This will be followed up by a series of planning meetings, beginning in January, to look at how we may address this situation.

**Proposed: Mike Collins Seconded: Linda Hunter Agreed: Unanimously.**

**9. Any Urgent Information.**

a. **Safeguarding** – none.

b. **Finance** – none.

**10. Correspondence:**

A letter from John Ross proposing the purchase of a grand piano for £2,000 rather than the full price of £6,000 had been received. This would replace the current piano donated by Robin and Mary Gray, which is difficult to move around and may present Health and Safety issues.

**Proposed: Mike Collins. Seconded: Anne King-Smith to keep the existing piano, Agreed: 11 votes.**

Following discussion it was agreed an independent review should be sought before making any decision, regardless of whether the opportunity might be missed. An appropriate response could then be sent to Robin and Mary Gray without causing distress or offence.

**11. AOB**

Max Philbrick had been asked, as Deanery Synod Rep, to discuss with the PCC what potential there was for collaborative work across the Deanery.

Suggested this could be along the lines of understanding the need to be open, flexible and supportive.

**The meeting closed with Grace.**