

**The Parish of Corbridge St Andrew with Halton and Newton Hall
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 7.30pm
in St Andrews Church**

1. Present:

Canon David Kennedy (Chair)	Linda Hunter (Ordinand)	Rev'd Lynn Caudwell (Curate)
Jean Wilks (Chwdn)	Carol Moffatt (Sec)	Cliff Wright (Treasurer)
Sue Graves (Chwdn)	Edward Pybus	Monica Philbrick
Max Philbrick	David McKewan	Jo Eldridge
Val Barnes		

Apologies. Kate Jenkins, Rev'd Sam Lohead (Curate), Ian Graves, Jon Williams, David Preece, Ann King-Lewis.

The Vicar opened the meeting with a reading from Phillipians, Ch. 3.

2. Minutes.

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th November 2021 had been circulated and were accepted as a true record and signed off. Proposed by Cliff Wright., seconded by Edward Pybus and agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1. Quinquennial Inspections.

The draft report on the cottage, now received, will be reviewed by Maintenance Committee later this week. Once finalised, the report will be circulated to PCC for action. Halton is to be inspected on 28th January.

4. Mission and Ministry.

4.1. Appointment of Linda Hunter as Assistant Curate.

The Vicar was delighted to report that prior to her retirement Bishop Christine formally confirmed Linda Hunter as non-stipendiary Assistant Curate, with her ordination to take place on the first weekend of July.

4.2. Mission Statement: Sharing the Gospel.

Following on from discussion at the September Away Morning, the PCC discussed how we might "live out and share the Gospel by word and deed". Two items from September have progressed. The giving of personal testimony formed part of a recent River service by Nahida. By sharing personal journeys both into faith and growing in God's grace, we build confidence enabling us to progress in our own personal journeys.

Discussions are beginning to develop a men's group, and David McEwan, Malcolm Warin and Simon Caudwell have had some initial discussion, including the possibility of a faith formation course.

PCC then broke into groups to discuss how we understand the gospel as "good news". For a summary of group discussion, see the appendix to these minutes.

David suggested that over the coming months we might devise a statement of the good news we wish to share with this community as a Church. This could stand alongside our mission statement.

4.3. Ancient and Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship.

The PCC discussed the circulated report outlining the proposed purchase of the above with part of the generous bequest from Meg Humphries. The PCC agreed to the proposal to proceed and purchase copies as proposed, at a total cost of £2410.70 (this includes the 25% grant bursary).

Proposed Edward Pybus, seconded Val Barnes, and agreed with one abstention.

4.4 Review of Advent and Christmas Worship and events..

The PCC discussed the paper circulated by David and Linda. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant during December impacted heavily on Advent and Christmas activities. Having advertised services and events well in advance, the difficult decision to limit attendance on health and safety grounds brought a high degree of stress. David expressed huge appreciation to the Staff team and Churchwardens in the managing of bookings etc. There was huge appreciation expressed for the outdoor Carol service supported by 10 musicians from Hexham Brass, truly sharing the "good news" outside, and it is hoped this will now become a regular fixture in the Christmas calendar.

The Christmas Tree Festival too, despite numbers being restricted, was much enjoyed by many who were able to see at first hand the talent in our community. Again enormous thanks for all those who helped to make the event possible in the setting up, stewarding and taking down and to Linda for organising and overseeing it.

4.5 Plans for Lent and Easter.

Discussions on themes to be explored and a booklet outlining details of events and services during this period is in hand. There will be a service at 2pm on Good Friday in the Methodist Church and a combined service at St Andrew's on Easter Sunday. We will need to decide if Lent Lunches will be re-instated this year. We are awaiting confirmation that a performance of Bach's *St Johns Passion* will take place on Palm Sunday.

4.6. **Try Praying.**

This project is to be funded by a generous £1,000 donation, and introduced either through a cottage seminar and/or a sermon and perhaps at the April RIVER service. The feel of PCC was that Church would be better and more inter active. The Try Praying booklet would be handed out to all in the congregation to use themselves and the following week use a God-given opportunity to give the booklet to someone else, friend, colleague or stranger. A banner will be put up outside St Andrew's, and Perspex boxes with flyers by the bus stand and at Halton, as well as a supply outside Corbridge Youth Initiative.

Linda Hunter will seek clarification on ordering process, costs and young people's version. Additional copies may be required at River services and the Welcome Packs currently being prepared.

4.7 **Take-5**

An addendum to Take 5 Group Meeting notes presented at PCC on 24th November was circulated, clarifying the distribution of funding. Acceptance proposed by Linda Hunter, seconded by Cliff Wright and agreed unanimously. Cliff Wright will now arrange relevant payments.

Lynn Caudwell clarified that funds received by Getachew have not to be date been dramatically impacted by exchange rates and local inflation. Should a major shortfall arise the T5 group may come back to PCC regarding suggestions to help, but nothing is being assumed.

5. **Finance.**

A formal financial report reflecting and illustrating the year's figures will be presented at the next PCC.

6. **Reports.**

6.1. **Safeguarding.**

Linda Hunter spoke to her paper outlining reviewing and actions that need to be undertaken as outlined on the parish dashboard. In addition, we are now responsible for ensuring that DBS checks are carried out; the Diocese will not remind us of renewal dates. A new *Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework* became mandatory on January 1st 2022. This must be fully implemented by all church bodies. This has some implications for PCC. Linda to speak with Mandy Norton to arrange some Domestic Abuse training, perhaps done on a collective basis in house. In addition Linda brought to the attention of the PCC the different types of risk assessment and

elaborated on her handout. The Vicar again expressed appreciation for Linda's diligence in keeping us up to date with all requirements.

6.2. Halton - The architect is aware of the ongoing mould problem and will report accordingly in the forthcoming report.

6.3. a. Maintenance.

The new glass door was installed on 1st December 2021, and the Maintenance Committee is looking into possible modification of the opening and closing mechanism.

Two recommended contractors have offered site visits to advise, help design and quote for a comprehensive sound and audio-visual system. To be followed up and reported back.

b. Health & Safety, including fire safety.

Jon Williams and Michael Rae are to conduct a risk assessments following the pro-forma supplied by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

6.4. Events Committee Update.

An updated events report was circulated, with events booked included.

The Vicar also raised the question of celebrating the St Andrew's 1350th Anniversary. He is to meet with the Rector of Hexham as the Abbey also has the same Anniversary in 2024. He will report back to the PCC.

6.5. Cleaning of Cottage & Toilets.

Lynn Davidge will start on 31st January 2022 – an extra set of keys will be required.

7. Correspondence – None.

8. AOB

The Vicar advised that Lynn will chair PCC and Standing Committees in February and March as part of her training, although he also will be in attendance. The PCC agreed to this proposal.

LEH to advise Jean Wilks of Deanery Synod dates

The meeting closed with Compline.

Appendix: PCC meeting 26th January 2022 - Group discussions

- What in our faith as a member of St. Andrew's is good news for ourselves, for each other and the people of Corbridge?
- How can we help our Church better to become a "good news" Church?

[Some group notes are still to be supplied by scribes.]

Group 1. Lynn, Val and Carol.

- Good News Joy of expressing faith in music and worship, exploring new music with the language of hymns helping to clarify theology and adding a whole new dimension.
- A community of God's people – living as a sign of the kingdom of God with close fellowship. Connecting with worldwide family of believers. God establishes us in his family.
- Trust – built up between people, allowing growth and acceptance that we are made in God's image. Valuing diversity, the richness of sharing each other's experiences in a safe place.
- We want to be outward looking with generosity of spirit and warmth.
- People are important to God and to us, whatever their circumstances. Help people grow in confidence in their faith or to find it for the first time..
- Good news is about following Christ who will lead us to live alternative, countercultural lives – it's the opposite of all the bad news – it goes against the suspicion of others, leading to divisions - instead we are welcoming all.
- There is a hunger for bad news which does not heal or restore – we seek to challenge the bad news because we are secure in our own faith. To believe in the best not the worst.

Group 2 . Max, Jean and Linda

In addition to items previously mentioned.

- Being sustained through personal prayer and reflection on scripture.
- The belief in the fact that we are accepted and forgiven by God whatever happens.
- Learning and growing through being with other believers, being in fellowship with people of faith strengthens us as we see different ways of living out it out daily.
- Corporate acts of worship where gifts are valued as we are nurtured and grow.
- Sharing the good news with those in the local community.
- Having a shared vision of what and how we want to share the good news with others.