

The Parish of Corbridge St Andrew with Halton and Newton Hall
Minutes of PCC meeting held on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 7.30pm
in St Andrew's Church

Lynn opened the meeting with a reading from 1 Corinthians, Ch.12.

1. Present:

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

Apologies. Kate Jenkins, Ian Graves, Jon Williams, Ann King-Lewis, Val Barnes, David McEwan.

2. Minutes.

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 had been circulated and were accepted as a true record and signed off. Proposed by Edward Pybus, seconded by Sue Graves and agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1. Welcome Card

A date to progress the Welcome Card is to be set. The Lent Leaflet has been delivered to all on the new housing estate by Simon Hunter.

3.2. 1350th anniversary celebrations.

A planning group is to be set up to progress celebrations anticipated to take place in 2025, in collaboration with Hexham Abbey as well as Corbridge groups and agencies.

3.3. Songs of Praise.

The evening was a huge success enjoyed by all. Thanks were extended to everyone who worked hard to have the church and grounds ready for this joyous celebration.

4. Mission and Ministry.

4.1. Team Building Exercise. (Taken later in the meeting.)

Lynn thanked all members of PCC who completed the Belbin Group Role Questionnaire which is intended to provide an insight into how teams work. She tabled an analysis of the results showing a breakdown of the characteristics of the team and then went on to describe how these characteristics might be used to promote green light conversations which might mean setting time aside to hold more free-ranging, unconstrained conversations, allowing ourselves to dream big and then determining how agreed ideas might be resourced. It was agreed this could be an ongoing process as PCC membership changes.

4.2. Response to Ukraine Conflict.

The paper prepared by Malcolm Warin suggesting a village response to the conflict was circulated for discussion. It is proposed to seek a house in the village which could be used to provide homes for women and children for a period of six months. PCC agreed the proposal should be developed further as Malcolm investigates further possibilities to expand his proposal for PCC. Links will be made with Helen Savage at Slaley and the Parish Council who may have invaluable links and local knowledge.

4.3. Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

David requested permission for a special service of thanksgiving on Sunday 5th June at the 10am service. A Holy Communion service would take place at 8am. PCC agreed.

4.4. Take 5

The leaflets re-drafted by Sam were approved. There will be a display on the Take 5 board which has been refreshed by Max and Monica Philbrick. David expressed appreciation to Max and Monica for their work on this project. Perspex display boxes are awaited to make more information readily available.

4.5. Try Praying.

Try Praying Dispensers to be positioned around the village with labels to say this is a St Andrew's initiative.

Copies of the Youth booklet were circulated, and these will be available in Church as well as to the Youth Initiative, River services and Messy Church.

At the service on 24th April (Low Sunday) the sermon will introduce the initiative. Everyone will be given a copy of the booklet to use themselves- the next Sunday everyone to be encouraged to look for a God-given opportunity to give the booklet to a friend, colleague or whoever they meet.

Thy Kingdom Come Prayer activities will take place at the Messy Church service on 8th May and Thy Kingdom Come Booklets will be introduced on 22nd May, copies of the Novena booklet and prayer journals will be given out.

5. Finance.

Cliff spoke to the financial report circulated to PCC and explained that despite the challenging times St Andrew's has ended the year in a positive position.

- Despite restrictions in place throughout 2021, significant recovery in our finances was seen.
- The payment of PCC Charitable Grants (Take 5) for 2021 with a total value of £7,600 was deferred until 2022. Taking account of this, the "real" or underlying" Operating result for last year was a surplus of £10,300, rather than the reported £17,900.
- Giving levels improved and, significantly, standing orders have increased each year since 2018.
- Strong recoveries in Fundraising, Donations and Parish Fees.
- The value of our Charifund investment regained ground lost in 2020 but this is probably falling away again in 2022.
- We have strong reserves of which very little is committed.
- On the strength of these results we appear in an extremely strong position. However, there are significant challenges ahead which will need to be considered carefully, i.e. general increase in living costs, buildings maintenance, parish share (where greater transparency would be valued), as well as the age profile of the parish where over the next 5 – 10 years a younger population may mean a reduction in giving and legacies.

It was noted that the tremendous work that goes into fundraising meant that the capital spend projects (the organ restoration and the clock winder) resulted in only a very small shortfall (around £300) coming from reserves.

The work of PCC in being totally transparent was affirmed but it was agreed that we should have a Reserves Policy, which funds could only be used with special permission and a specific detailed request. David to provide a policy document previously used at Durham which can be modified for St Andrew's, for approval at next meeting.

The independent signed report will be brought to APCM. Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by Linda Hunter, seconded by Edward Pybus and agreed unanimously.

6. Reports.

6.1. Safeguarding.

Linda provided details of the Church of England's learning portal and asked PCC members who have still to complete Foundation Training to log on and complete before AGM in May.

Those whose DBS checks are due for renewal to be advised. There are at least 9 across the parish who need renewing imminently and 2 later on in the year. Reviews are due every 3 years.

The Safeguarding Parish Booklet will be reviewed ready for the AGM.

6.2. Halton - The quinquennial report is awaited.

6.3. Maintenance.

There was lengthy and robust discussion around the document circulated from the Architect for work on the Cottage to be done in phases. Mandate was sought from PCC to proceed with appointing Tristan Spicer as project manager and setting up stages 1-3 of the project specification. It was agreed that phases 1-3 almost take the form of a feasibility study before firm costings for resulting work can be provided. With our level of reserves and confidence in our ability to raise funds it was proposed to proceed. The cottage is an essential and integral part of the parish and needs to be restored properly to be fit for purpose. Proposed by Jo Eldridge, seconded by Cliff Wright and agreed, with 1 abstention, and all others in favour.

Linda said the cottage boiler had become completely unreliable and would probably fail soon. If not repairable, we would at this stage need to replace it with similar. Then in the longer term we would, as planned, consider alternative heating appliances and fuel source. PCC agreed to this approach.

David Preece was thanked for ensuring all lighting is in working order.

The submission to replace the existing photocopier which is increasingly unreliable was discussed and PCC agreed to go ahead with the proposed replacement. Proposed by Jean Wilks, seconded by Edward Pybus and agreed unanimously.

Health & Safety – fire risk assessment ongoing.

6.4 Events Committee

Calendar filling up with a variety of events and Linda will circulate updated calendar in due course.

7. Correspondence.

David confirmed that at a Service at 3pm on 2nd July, Linda will be ordained Deacon at Newcastle Cathedral. Those who would like to attend are invited to add their name to the list at the back of Church.

8. AOB. None.

The meeting closed with prayer.