

The Parish of Corbridge St Andrew with Halton and Newton Hall
Minutes of the PCC held on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 7.30pm

As today was the Feast of the conversion of St Paul, David Kennedy opened the meeting with a reading from Philippians 3, in which Paul describes the forward momentum of his own discipleship. David said that the previous year had been a time of growth and progression for St Andrew's, as we enjoyed a return towards normality following Covid restrictions.

1. Present:

Canon David Kennedy	Val Barnes	Max Philbrick
Lynn Caudwell (Curate)	Alice Bryant	Edward Pybus
Sam Lohead (Curate)	Jo Eldridge	Nahida Remy
Linda Hunter (Curate)	Anne King-Lewis	Jean Wilks (Chwdn; minutes)
	David McEwan (Chwdn)	John Wilson
	Monica Philbrick	Cliff Wright (Treasurer)

Apologies: Carol Moffatt

2. To agree and sign off minutes of PCC meeting on Wednesday 23rd November 2022.

Edward Pybus proposed acceptance of the minutes with a correction in para. 4.1: "David *said* that ... ". This was agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1 Parish Administrator.

David K said Lorna Petrie commenced a one-month trial period on 16th January, working 9.15-11.15am, Mon-Fri. She had made a good start, and was gradually taking over admin tasks from Linda. He hoped to be able to confirm her permanent appointment at the February PCC meeting; she will then be invited to attend a Sunday morning service where she will be formally introduced to the congregation.

Linda said a new desktop computer had been purchased; Max asked about back-up arrangements for this. It was agreed we should set up a system that gives back-up security without compromising data protection.

3.2. Corbridge Community Partnership (CCP).

A 3-month trial period will start in March. Governance documents are being worked on; so is the business plan, which will ensure financial security from e.g. letting income. There will be a meeting with the Parish Council in February to identify any possible areas of duplication or friction. In April there will be an open meeting for the village. St Andrew's has no core financial commitment, but we will pay for any use we make of the building.

4. Appointments.

4.1. Lynn Caudwell. PCC formally congratulated Lynn on her appointment as Priest in Charge of St. Christopher's, Pott Shrigley, near Macclesfield in the Diocese of Chester. She will be licensed on 15th March 2023. Her final Sunday at

St Andrew's will be 19th February, when it is planned to hold a drinks reception and shared lunch following the 10am service. Lynn said she was very grateful for her experience working in St Andrew's, which has been the ideal preparation for her new post. Edward said she had made a huge contribution in this parish, where she will be much remembered and missed; everyone agreed.

4.2. Church Warden.

David K welcomed David McEwan as our new Churchwarden, and thanked him for taking on the role and for all that he will bring to it.

4.3 Bishop of Newcastle.

Bishop Helen-Ann was due to move in today. Her appointment formally commences when it is confirmed in York Minster on 3rd February, and her ministry begins at her installation on 22nd April at 3pm.

5. Mission and Ministry.

5.1. 1350th Anniversary

The steering committee met yesterday; minutes will follow.

5.1.1 Proposed development of Lady Chapel

Lynn presented David K's discussion paper (previously circulated), and led a walk-round to show members what was envisaged. She invited everyone to engage with the proposals and raise any observations, queries or concerns. Issues raised included:

- Storage space required. Could this also provide for other needs, e.g. the staging panels, or new video screens? There is some outside storage in meter cupboard, but it was felt that items in frequent use need to stay inside the main building. The existing sound system and music cupboards could be relocated elsewhere.
- Important to consider all possible users and ask what they might need: e.g. comfy chairs, storage, kettle/coffee bar.
- How does this fit in with the West End Project? Which takes priority? (David K said the West End Project was still on the agenda but had been delayed by Covid. However the Lady Chapel project could start quite soon, because it has already attracted a substantial funding offer, and individual components or furnishings should easily attract further donations.)
- We should consider replacing the wooden chairs with stacking or folding chairs, to save space.
- What about large events, services and concerts? Could we still use the lady chapel area for extra seating capacity? Would the glass partitioning affect audibility in the Lady Chapel, or acoustics in the rest of the church?
- Would the reserved sacrament remain in the lady chapel? (yes)

It was agreed that the project would need the support of not only the whole congregation but also the wider community, especially in view of

its cost during a period of austerity. It would be important to “test the water”, anticipate any possible resistance, and share the vision in a way that people will welcome (e.g. emphasise the environmental benefits). Also it would be important to keep a clear focus on the Lady Chapel Project itself, as distinct from other aspects raised above which are related but not intrinsic to it (general storage, seating etc.).

PCC unanimously supported the proposals and agreed for them to be explored further.

5.1.2 Mission initiative: Cranmer Hall, Durham

Sam presented David K’s discussion paper (previously circulated). This project would involve 4 or 5 students in a similar role to Ana’s current work placement, probably from September to Easter. They would bring great benefits to St Andrew’s: energy, new ideas, opportunities for outreach, and initiatives which could continue into the future. It would also offer a valuable training opportunity for the students, helping to shape their future work and ministry. Supervision would be an important consideration; it could not all be done by David, so a supervision team may be needed. There would also be extra work making the necessary practical arrangements, and there would be budgetary considerations. However it was felt that all this would be far outweighed by the benefits, and PCC unanimously agreed for the project to go forward.

5.2. Mission Statement: Mission of Welcome, incl. the Welcome Card

The Mission of Welcome will be explored in detail at February’s PCC meeting. Meanwhile, copies of the Welcome Card (passed round at the last meeting) were distributed, and the content and layout were agreed by all, subject to the additional inclusion of Halton’s services in the list of Sunday worship. The team will now arrange for the cards to be produced and put into use.

5.3. Take-5

Take-5 minutes had been previously circulated. Lynn thanked Max and Monica for organising the excellent new-style notice board, which looked more streamlined and included stories about the supported projects. In February there will be a series of talks by Richard Adams on environments issues. David K will initially oversee Take-5 after Lynn moves on. Linda thanked Lynn for the Take-5 initiative which is one of the legacies she will leave behind.

5.4. Review of Christmas

David K said it had been wonderful to return to a “normal” Christmas. The Christmas services had together attracted over 1,200 worshippers. The Angels project had brought much joy throughout the village. The Community Carol Singing during the tree festival had been an astounding success, with positive feedback from those attending, and will be repeated in future years. The tree festival had raised over £10,000. He thanked all who had contributed in many ways to all the Christmas activities and celebrations.

5.5. Forward planning: services and events January to April 2023

Deferred to next PCC meeting, as arrangements were not yet finalised.

6. Finance.

Nothing to report until next PCC meeting.

7. Reports.

7.1 Safeguarding: nothing to report.

7.2 Maintenance Committee.

The next Maintenance Committee meeting is on 6th February; minutes will follow. Further updates since last PCC:

- Halton: David will offer suitable dates to meet with Edward and Sir Hugh to discuss the recommendations from the quinquennial inspection.
- Cottage: Jean had emailed Tristan Spicer to request an update, and also left him a phone message, but no response has been received, so she presumed that there was still no progress. The churchwardens will pursue this.
- Glass door: the magnetic strip is still awaited from Creative Glass.
- Lighting: the new bulbs have arrived and work should commence soon.
- Health and Safety: there were no additional Health and Safety issues that the Maintenance Committee wished to raise with the PCC, and none reported at the PCC meeting.

7.3. Events Committee Update.

The committee meets tomorrow; a report to PCC will follow. Khrystyna's piano concert had an audience of 233 and raised over £2,000 through donations. There will be a pancake and quiz night on Shrove Tuesday.

8. Correspondence. Lynn had received a thank-you letter from Getachew.

9. Any other business. None.

10. Date of Next Meeting. Wednesday 15th February 2023.

Closed with Compline.

JW 27.1.2023