

The Parish of Corbridge St. Andrew with Halton
Minutes of PCC meeting on Wed. 20th March 2024 in the Vicarage.

Opening reading and prayer. To mark St Cuthbert's day, David K read a passage from John 10.

1. **Present:** Canon David Kennedy (Chair), Rev'd Linda Hunter, Rev'd Sam Lohead, Edward Pybus, Cliff Wright, John Wilson, Max Philbrick, Jean Wilks (minutes), David McEwan, John Clark, Janet Kennedy, Alice Stephenson, Nahida Remy.

Apologies: Val Barnes, Jo Eldridge, Carol Moffatt.

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** the minutes of the PCC meeting on 24.1.24 were agreed as a correct record (proposed by Edward, seconded by Max).

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

1. David K said Max and Val had both offered help with the statement of core beliefs, and further volunteers would be welcome.
2. David K had now met with the Bishop and Archdeacon to discuss cover for the Moorlands benefice; discussions were ongoing.

4. **Finance**

1. **Annual accounts.** Cliff presented the accounts and explanatory document which had been circulated, and said the accounts had been checked and signed by Mike Collins. Acceptance of the accounts and financial report was proposed by John Wilson, seconded by David McEwan and agreed by all present.

David K said that John Ross had left a bequest of £30k for the upkeep of the church organ. David hoped this sum could generate investment income to cover routine tuning and maintenance. PCC expressed its gratitude for this generous bequest.

2. **Financial decisions.** David K said our reserves figure was healthy but some of it was restricted or designated, mainly for capital projects:

- The Batey bequest of £66k should cover work on the cottage.
- £32k was designated for the Lady Chapel project but the projected total cost could reach £260k. Funds could come from major donor(s), grant applications, and a community appeal, but we may also need to draw on reserves.
- Halton repairs would cost us £10k, of which £7.8k is already designated.
- We were still awaiting the St Andrew's quinquennial inspection report with its costed schedule of repairs.

The undesignated reserves figure was £115k. To help us decide whether any of this could be allocated to capital projects, David hoped to bring a position paper and draft reserves policy to the May PCC meeting.

5. **Ministry Team.** David K was delighted to announce the appointment of Sam Lohead as Priest in Charge of Seaton Hirst, in Ashington. Everyone congratulated Sam, and we all look forward to attending his licensing there.

6. **Mission and Ministry**

1. **1350th Anniversary update.** Linda had circulated two sets of minutes and the updated timeline chart. She said the plans already involve many different strands and community agencies, and it is hoped that more will be added. A feature is to be included in the next issue of Corbridge Matters. Once the year's events start, they should generate income, but the group

requested that PCC allocate a designated start-up fund of £5,000 to pay for merchandise and setting-up costs. This was proposed by Edward, seconded by John Clark, and agreed by all.

2. **Take 5.** Max reported on the two sets of minutes which had been circulated. He said the visit by the Goods had been well received. The group was discussing how we can meet the Diocesan commitment to achieve Net Zero. They were also discussing a possible name change, as Take-5 is often misunderstood.

7. Maintenance reports

1. **Update from Maintenance Committee.** Minutes had been circulated.
2. **Lady Chapel.** David K said plans and costings had now been received from the architects, and will be circulated to PCC. The Maintenance Committee was satisfied with the project's feasibility. Depending on available funding, it may need to be done in two stages, with the glazing first, and the fixtures and furnishings later. He aims to bring a position paper to PCC either at the May meeting or at a special earlier meeting; then, if agreed by PCC, the project can be presented to the congregation and wider community. John C offered to assist with this process.
3. **Cottage.** Work on the rainwater goods was in progress. Kitchen plans were delayed to allow further discussion re possible inclusion of underfloor heating.
4. **Halton.** Awaiting start date for repairs.
5. **Newton churchyard.** The faculty notice is on display until Easter Sunday; no objections received so far.
6. **Health and Safety.** See maintenance minutes. The base of the tower is being cleared of combustible materials which were a possible fire hazard.

8. Other reports

1. **Safeguarding.** Linda said 16 people were due for a new DBS, and 11 were due to renew training. Please all respond promptly if you are emailed about these.
2. **Deanery Synod.** Deferred to next PCC meeting.
3. **Events Committee.** Report and events programme had been circulated.
4. **Corbridge Community Partnership.** Crowd-funding appeal for £50k.
5. **Eco committee.** Sam said the parish had achieved bronze award status. The committee was now discussing priorities to achieve silver and then gold. They request formal agreement from PCC that we are committed to improving the environmental credentials of the church through working towards silver and gold awards. He stressed that this would not constitute a financial commitment. Sam was asked to circulate a written proposal before the next meeting so this could be given full consideration.

9. **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), 5th May.** David said Jean was standing down as Churchwarden, so a new nomination was being sought. Also some PCC members were due to stand down.

10. **Correspondence:** none.

11. Any other business.

Alice asked PCC to consider extra expenses incurred by David K while temporarily working from home following his injury; Linda said this was being addressed.

12. **Date of next meetings.** APCM: Sun 5th May, 11am. PCC: Wed. 22nd May.