

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

Lynn opened the meeting with a reading from Hebrews ch.4, and a prayer.

**1. Present:**

Rev'd Lynn Caudwell (Chair)	Sue Graves (CW)	Edward Pybus
Canon David Kennedy	Kate Jenkins	Jean Wilks (CW)(minutes)
Rev'd Sam Lohead	David McKewan	Jon Williams
Linda Hunter (Ordinand)	Max Philbrick	Cliff Wright (Treasurer)
	Monica Philbrick	

**Apologies:**

Val Barnes, Jo Eldridge, Ian Graves, Anne King-Lewis, Carol Moffatt, David Preece

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed off. Proposed by Monica Philbrick, seconded by Sue Graves.

**3. Matters Arising**

- 1) **Cottage Quinquennial Inspection.** Jean said Maintenance Committee had received and studied the draft report, and given approval for it to be issued in final form. The main item in the recommendations was control of the damp, for which various options were given. Maintenance Committee would be meeting the architect on 24<sup>th</sup> February to discuss these further, and would then propose an action plan for PCC to consider along with the full report.
- 2) **New hymn books.** David Kennedy reported that the books had arrived and would be dedicated on the coming Sunday.
- 3) **Try Praying.** Linda said she would bring a plan to the next PCC meeting.
- 4) **Mission statement: Sharing the Gospel.** David Kennedy said plans for the men's group were progressing. He hoped some personal testimonies might result from the previous Sunday's Healing service. We would continue working on ways to convey our message and convictions to the community in ways they can identify with.
- 5) **Cleaner.** Sue said Lynne Davidge was now working for us, and seemed content. All formalities had been completed.

**4. Mission & Ministry**

- 1) **Mission statement: reaching out to the community.** David Kennedy circulated the second draft of our proposed Welcome Card, designed to be

given to new village residents. It was designed by Jo and Bob Eldridge in conjunction with a small working group. The format was folded A5; it contained text drafted by David Kennedy, and would be used to contain A5 flyers about (e.g.) Messy Church, River, other groups and organisations, Life Event services (baptisms, wedding, funerals, ministry to the sick and dying), and contact details for ministers and group leaders. David invited group discussions to comment on the card and suggest other flyers it might include. Comments made during group feedback:

- Some liked the card, thought it well-pitched, and would like to receive it as a new resident. Others thought there may be too much text, and it could be simpler (“little is better”).
- It will appeal to existing church-goers, but may need a different style to attract others. The text and/or inserts need to convey vibrancy, energy, community involvement, and offer a variety of ways for people to get involved or volunteer.
- Inserts could include tree festival, concerts, various group meetings, choir, Take-5, Eco-church.
- The card could include a QR code link to our website.

David welcomed these ideas, which he said the working group would take on board as they continued with the project.

- 2) **Lent & Easter.** Linda gave out the draft booklet covering all services, groups and events. It would be finalised and distributed within the next few days.
- 3) **St Andrew’s 1350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.** David Kennedy presented a discussion paper. While the exact foundation date of St Andrew’s is uncertain, we know it was shortly after Hexham Abbey’s in 674. So David and the Rector of Hexham Abbey are proposing a joint celebration, focusing on Hexham in 2024 and Corbridge in 2025. David envisages some activities shared with the Abbey, and others in partnership with village groups and agencies. He sees it as a once-in-a-generation opportunity, which can be multi-faceted with a wide range of activities: evangelistic, cultural, community. Suggestions include a cycle of mystery plays, and a project to glaze the Lady Chapel to make a flexible space. We would need a pilot and planning group involving influential people from the village community, plus splinter groups working on different projects and events. PCC gave its agreement for this initiative to go ahead.
- 4) **Josephine Butler Anniversary Celebrations.** David Kennedy presented a paper outlining Josephine Butler’s life and achievements, and her connections with Corbridge and St Andrew’s. He proposed marking in 2023 the 195<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth. PCC discussed possible suggestions, and recalled previous commemorative activities. The Josephine Butler College in

Durham were believed to be updating their travelling exhibition. David suggested that any new events should link history to current issues, and modern-day equivalents of the problems she addressed. PCC agreed for David's proposals to be taken forward.

- 5) **Take-5.** Lynn presented the Take-5 report, and said the group was gathering momentum again.

Sam was taking the lead in creating an eco-friendly church, initiatives. He said they were looking at positive changes we could make in the churchyard, considering re-wilding the cottage garden, and identifying an "eco champion" to work with the Maintenance Committee.

PCC considered the draft booklet on sustainable living, which would be aimed at the congregation. It was suggested that we should first consult local businesses; we would not wish to antagonise them, e.g. by encouraging church members to change their shopping habits in ways that could affect local retailers.

Lynn said the North Transept notice board would be used for a rolling display about all the Take-5 projects.

- 6) **Deanery Away Day.** Linda said the day began with an address by David Kennedy, then the group considered various questions and were to form an action plan.

## 5. Finance

Cliff presented his report. He said that generally the figures were promising and showed us to be in a healthy position.

## 6. Reports

- 1) **Safeguarding.** Linda reported on training requirements for PCC members: all must do Basic Awareness and Foundation modules, some must do Leadership, and all must do Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. Also the Social Media policy was due for review: PCC agreed to adopt the circulated version, proposed by Linda Hunter and seconded by Kate Jenkins.
- 2) **Halton.** The Quinquennial Inspection was done on 28th January; report awaited. Nothing else to report.
- 3) **Maintenance.** Maintenance Committee minutes had been circulated.
  - **Sound system.** Jean said there had been a meeting with Charlie Brown, audio-visuals consultant (and verger at Ripon Cathedral), to discuss our requirements and possible solutions. He was currently working at Riding Mill, installing a system similar to the type he recommended for us. It had been agreed that he would return to St Andrew's to draw up a

specification and quotation. We would then ask Lucy Burfield (DAC) for advice on where to go for a second quote.

- **Health & Safety.** There were still plans to review the fire risk assessment, using the pro-forma from Ecclesiastical Insurance, when time is available.
- **Glass Door.** The door was still blowing open in windy weather. The supplier had agreed to fit (free of charge) a ball-catch to give more resistance against opening, but a date for this was still awaited. All agreed this was now urgent as the door is not fit-for-purpose unless it will stay shut.

4) **Events.** Linda presented the latest events calendar. Two subsequent time changes were noted: concert start times are now 6.30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> April and 7pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

## **7. Correspondence.**

Lynn said there were letters of thanks from two Take-5 projects: Malcolm Jones, PCDC; and Getachew in Ethiopia.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- 1) David had been telephoned by a BBC producer wishing to record Songs of Praise in St Andrew's on 21<sup>st</sup> March. They would set up from lunch-time on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and record on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Planning meeting arranged for Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> February.
- 2) Monica said the head of the First School was leaving.
- 3) Lynn offered to lead a team building exercise, and circulated copies of the Belbin questionnaire. She said this wasn't designed to solve problems, as there are none, but to have some fun, and to help us to better understand each other's strengths. She asked everyone to look at it and let her know before the next Standing Committee if they wished to take part in this. If yes, she would need the completed questionnaires and score sheets returned to her three days before the next PCC. Results would be anonymised.

The meeting ended with Compline.

### **Future meetings:**

9<sup>th</sup> March Standing Committee

23<sup>rd</sup> March PCC

15<sup>th</sup> May APCM