

The Parish of Corbridge St Andrew with Halton and Newton Hall
Minutes of PCC meeting held on Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7.30pm
in St Andrews Church

David welcomed new members and opened the meeting with a reading from Acts of the Apostles ch.20 vv. 28-35.

1. Present:

Canon David Kennedy	Carol Moffatt (Sec)	Anne King-Lewis
Rev'd Lynn Caudwell (Curate)	Cliff Wright (Treasurer)	David McEwan
Rev'd Sam Lohead (Curate)	Val Barnes	Edward Pybus
Linda Hunter (Ordinand)	Alice Bryant	Nahida Remy
Jean Wilks (Chwdn)	Jo Eldridge	John Wilson

Apologies: Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Sue Graves.

2. PCC Membership.

1/2. New members were warmly welcomed to PCC, and David spoke to his paper regarding the role of PCC members in the oversight of PCC (*see appendix 1*).

Co-optees:

3. John Wilson was co-opted to PCC: proposed by Jean Wilks, seconded by Nahida Remy and agreed unanimously.
4. Cliff Wright was proposed as Treasurer by Val Barnes and seconded by Nahida Remy. Carol Moffatt was proposed as Secretary by Linda Hunter and seconded by David McEwan. Both were co-opted with unanimous agreement.
5. Linda Hunter was co-opted as a PCC member until her ordination as Deacon on 2nd July 2022 (when she will become an ex-officio member): proposed by Edward Pybus, seconded by Alice Bryant and agreed unanimously.
6. **Standing committee** members comprise David Kennedy, Cliff Wright, Linda Hunter, Jean Wilks, Lynn Caudwell and Sam Lohead, leaving two vacancies yet to be filled.
7. **Churchwardens.** David said Sue Graves had asked to stand down as churchwarden due to family commitments, so a replacement was being sought.
8. **Sidespeople** were confirmed as follows: Pauline Bennett, Carol Knott, Jane and Paul Morris, Liz Buckley, Coleen Petrie, Suzette Milne, Maureen Davidson, Mandy Norton, Ann Prudhoe, John Wilson, Sheila Anderson, Linda Craig and Anne King-Lewis.
9. **Deanery Synod.** Alice Bryant volunteered to be an additional representative. Proposed by Cliff Wright, seconded by Jo Eldridge and agreed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of meeting on 23rd March 2022 proposed by Edward Pybus, seconded by Linda Hunter and agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising.

4.1. Welcome Card. David will arrange a meeting of the working group in the next few weeks.

- 3.2. **1350th anniversary celebrations 2025.** Working in collaboration with David Glover of Hexham and John Dobson of Ripon (planning their own celebrations in 2024 and 2022), work on our own celebration planned for 2025 are underway, with the intention of sharing ideas and resources. Volunteers are invited to join a planning committee.
- 3.3. **Songs of Praise.** Despite the limitations demanded by Covid restrictions, this was a moving and much enjoyed event.
- 3.4 **Try Praying.** Linda introduced the Try Praying initiative on Low Sunday and there has been a very good take up of the 350 booklets across all age ranges. In addition the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer diary was introduced on the Sunday after the Ascension both at the 10.00am service and River. A sermon series is planned over the summer using the Justin Welby booklet based round 1 Peter.

5. **Ministry Team.**

- 5.1. **Lynn Caudwell:** After completing three years training with St Andrew's, Lynn felt her curacy had been a gift where she had learned much and been able to grow with the support of the ministry team and congregation in a two way conversation. She offered thanks to all for their encouragement and friendship and awaits news of her future ministry.
- 5.2 **Linda Hunter: ordination as Deacon.** David asked for prayers for Linda and her family as she prepares for her ordination as Deacon on 2nd July 2022; and Linda thanked David for all his time and help during her journey to ordination.
- 5.3 **Ordinand on Placement.** From October 2022 to April 2023, Anna Moskvina, an Ordinand from Cranmer Hall, Durham, will be on placement at our weekly Sunday services, plus one other occasion during the week, perhaps at a River or Messy Church service. It was felt to be very encouraging that St Andrew's is seen as a valued training opportunity.

6. **Mission and Ministry.**

- 6.1. **Mission Statement Review.** During the period 2020-2021, progression of our Mission Statement has been slowed due to Covid and the lack of opportunities to meet together. In future it is the intention to review progress at each PCC, and Linda will prepare a grid tracking progress so that work can continue in sequence.
- 6.2 **Common Cup.** Taking into account the caution many still feel regarding the possible spread of Covid infection, it was agreed unanimously to continue for the time being with ministerial intinction. This will remain under review as circumstances change.
- 6.3 **Autumn Teaching series:** It is proposed to hold 5 midweek sessions exploring key aspects of what we believe as expressed in the creeds. This may be done on Zoom and opened up to the Deanery.
- 6.4 **Parish Administrator.** To help fill the gap as Linda moves into her ministry as Deacon it is intended to employ a part time Administrator. A job description is being developed with hours and salary to be decided.
- 6.5. **Take Five.** The team have been meeting regularly, updating information displayed and encouraging interest. Sam is to lead a sub-committee to progress work on Eco Church, to which volunteers are invited.

- 6.6. **Response to Ukraine conflict.** The first coffee morning held in the Parish Hall did not attract any attendance. However refugees will continue to be encouraged to come and be involved.
- 6.7. **Book Clubs Update and Review.** The two groups of six who gathered during the Pandemic have been reading the "Sensible Shoes" series which for many has proved to be a transformative experience. Groups have formed in two other churches, and they too are finding the material encouraging. A gathering is planned at St Andrew's on 9th August for all those who have participated. Lynn has written to the author telling her of the success of the groups and inviting her to lead a retreat in the Tyne Valley.
7. **Finance.**
 - 7.1. **Update.** Cliff will present a full forecast at the next PCC meeting.
 - 7.2. **Update of Giving Commitment week.** The 9% increase to a very successful appeal was most encouraging and a sign of the faith of the congregation in the life of our church.
 - 7.3 David awaits a response to his request to Durham Cathedral Choir Association for sight of their Reserve Policy as recommended by the Charity Commission.
8. **Reports.**
 - 8.1. **Safeguarding.** Richard Adams' DBS update awaited to identify how many still need training. Mandy Norton to provide domestic violence training.
 - 8.2. **Halton.** The Quinquennial report was still awaited. Edward Pybus to speak with Sir Hugh Blackett to arrange repair to the gate at Halton.
 - 8.3 **Maintenance.** Minutes were circulated. Jean said the cottage boiler had now been ordered, and sound and audio-visual systems were being researched.
 - 8.4. **Events Committee Update.** Thanks were expressed to the committee for the very strong range of activities programmed.
9. **Correspondence.**

David advised that Alistair Jenkins has resigned from the First School governing body, leaving a vacancy. If PCC members know of anyone who might make a suitable replacement please let David know. Experience in finance would be particularly beneficial.
10. **AOB.**

It was agreed that Cliff should arrange to send a contribution to a retirement gift for Canon Lesley Towers.
11. **Date of Next Meeting.** Wednesday 13th July 2022.

Appendix 1

Role of the Parochial Church Council

There is an important Greek word in the New Testament – *episcopé* – which means ‘oversight’ or ‘watching over’. It was later used of the office of Bishop – hence, today we might talk about the episcopate of the Bishop of Newcastle. But the original use of *episcopé* is wider. Each local Church needs oversight. Part of this comes from the Clergy and other authorised Ministers such as Readers. But in the Church of England this *épiscopé* is also shared, at the local level, with the elected representatives of the congregation, namely the Churchwardens and the PCC. PCC members represent the whole congregation, helping to ensure that St Andrew’s and Halton are being well served and are given direction in mission and ministry.

There are a number of elements to this *corporate episcopé*:

- good governance – PCC members are the Governing Body of the Church and Trustees, ensuring that our Church life is transparent, safe, open, accountable
- PCCs have certain legal and financial responsibilities e.g. oversight of our Church finances along with the Treasurer
- we have defined responsibilities regarding Safeguarding and Health and Safety
- we have responsibilities for our buildings and churchyards, their use, maintenance and development
- the Incumbent (Vicar) and Churchwardens have specific responsibilities by virtue of their offices, but must consult with the PCC
- the PCC has spiritual responsibility – to have oversight of the Church’s mission and ministry, taking forward and helping to develop, under God, the whole life of the Church
- some decisions, like a change to the pattern of services, has to be jointly agreed by the Incumbent and PCC.

I like the term ‘watching over’ – take care of, having an overview of, the whole life of the Church. For individual members of the PCC, this means

- using our gifts, areas of competence, even expertise
- celebrating our diversity while carefully guarding our unity
- the group is more important than the individual – it is about seeking to honour each other, and offering our insights and convictions, recognising that God can speak through any of us.

PCCs should be enjoyable, sometimes fun, never quarrelsome, always courteous, where we show openness to, and respect for, each other. In this way we exercise an effective *corporate episcopé*.