

**The Parish of Corbridge St Andrew with Halton and Newton Hall**  
**Minutes of the PCC held on Wednesday 22 May 2024 in the Cottage**

**Opening Prayer** The Vicar opened the meeting with a reading, reflection on Isaiah 6 and with prayer.

Mrs Janet Kennedy kindly agreed to take the minutes of this meeting.

- 1. Present** Canon David Kennedy (Chair), the Revd Sam Lohead, the Revd Linda Hunter, Edward Pybus, John Wilson, David McEwan, Janet Kennedy, Nahida Remy, Max Philbrick, Karen Harkness, Jen Lansberry.

**Apologies** Peter Cook, Alice Stephenson, John Clark, Cliff Wright, Alastair Lishman

## **2. PCC Membership and Appointments**

**Welcome to New Members:** The Chair welcomed Karen and Jen to their first meetings. Peter and Alastair will be welcomed when they first attend.

**The Role of the PCC** A paper was tabled setting out PCC responsibilities.

### **Co-options**

- that Cliff Wright be co-opted as PCC Secretary (Proposed Max Philbrick, Seconded David McEwan). Agreed nem. con.
- that Jo Eldridge be co-opted as Minute Secretary (Proposed Edward Pybus, Seconded Nahida Remy). Agreed nem. con.
- that Jen Lansberry be co-opted to the PCC (Proposed David McEwan, Seconded Janet Kennedy). Agreed nem. con.
- that the following members of the Welcome Team (Sidespeople) be confirmed: Sue Graves (Senior Welcomer), Jean Wilks, Liz Buckley (Deputy Senior Welcomers), Pauline Bennett, Lynda Craig, Jane Darbyshire-Walker, Maureen Davison, Jennifer Herrmann, Heini Herrmann, Carol Knott, Alastair Lishman, Jane Morris, Paul Morris, Mandy Norton, Coleen Petrie, Ann Prudhoe, Judith Taylor, Gail Williams, John Wilson, Diane Wylie (Proposed Edward Pybus, Seconded John Wilson) Agreed nem. con.
- Standing Committee: the Chair stated that the present Standing Committee is Vicar, Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer. He would welcome a further member of the PCC to join the Standing Committee. Please speak to David if interested.

**3. Minutes of the PCC Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.** Edward Pybus proposed and Max Philbrick seconded that the minutes be accepted. Agreed by all who were present.

**4. Matters Arising:**

**CCP** Linda Hunter gave a summary of the last Trustees Meeting. Crowd Funding, Levelling Up Community Funding and Lottery Funding are being sought for the purchase and refurbishment of the building. Government Funding is allocated regionally, so Corbridge may not be best placed to receive it. Karen Harkness asked about the relationship of the Hub to the Parish Hall. David explained that the development of the Hub was in full consultation with the Parish Council. They are seen as complimentary rather than in competition. Max Philbrick commented on the fact that the two buildings are very different and so some activities are better suited to one or the other.

**5. Mission and Ministry**

**The Revd Sam Lohead.** While Sam's appointment as Priest-in-Charge of Seaton Hirst was reported in March, this is Sam's last PCC meeting before his final Sunday on 2 June. David thanked Sam for his contribution to the PCC over four years. Sam thanked everyone and said how much he had learned and enjoyed being part of the PCC. Edward Pybus expressed the PCC's thanks for Sam's ministry in the Parish.

**Parish Administrator.** David reported that, sadly, Hilary Hunter had handed in her notice as Parish Administrator. She will work her period of notice to 21 June. Since taking the post, Hilary had secured another job as her main employment and this was incompatible with continuing as Administrator. Hilary has enjoyed the post immensely and is very sorry to be leaving. After discussion it was agreed that we should re-advertise the post.

**Slaley, Healey and Whittonstall.** David reported that discussions were beginning with the Bishop's Senior Staff about the possible future pastoral care of the three Parishes. This will need to be discussed by the Deanery Development Group. There had been useful learning since the Parishes became vacant, but pro tem the Corbridge Team will continue to support the Vacancy.

**Occasional Offices.** Linda Hunter drew the PCCs attention to the fact that we are handling a lot of baptisms, weddings, and funerals, mainly at Corbridge but also some in the Moorland group of Parishes. This is a significant investment in Clergy

time and we are committed to it and to the missional and pastoral opportunities they present. However, we also need to be realistic about work-loads and expectations, especially as Sam is moving to his new Ministry. Sam underlined the value of ministering to a broad range of people from the community; it gets us recognised and the care St Andrew's provides is much appreciated and respected.

**Core beliefs.** David explained that this would be part of the spiritual interpretation of 1350; his idea was a pop-up banner that could be moved to different locations in St Andrew's. David circulated the paper first discussed in January, along with a second draft, which was thematically based under the headings *Faith, Life, Hope* and *Community*. The PCC discussed this in small groups. After a wide-ranging discussion, the following points were made:

- there was general approval of the thematic approach and that the tone was right
- still too many words, especially if other leaflets will be available for people to take away
- keep it strong and simple
- the word *hope* may need to be revisited as it is used differently in a Christian context to secular usage
- there should be mention of Scripture, perhaps in the *faith* section
- in the *community* section, the word *ordinary* was questioned – 'community of people'?

David will convene a small group to take this forward.

## 6. 1350 Up-date

Linda presented the notes from the 1350 Committee, along with the updated Planning Timeline (May 2024). Details are now on the web-site. Jan Williams will be doing training for guides and on the history of the Church. We are grateful to Ian Wylie for the article in *Corbridge Matters*. David has approached the First School about the possibility of the School Choir singing at the launch service in October with Bishop Helen-Ann. Linda asked for offers of help re merchandising and for more people to join the Steering Group.

7. **Finance.** Linda reported an email from Cliff Wright stating that March's Giving Commitment Sunday has seen an 8% rise in Planned Giving (c. 6,400pa) with a further 1.5% (c. £1,200) in one-off payments. David expressed his thanks for the excellent response of the congregation and Church supporters.

## 8. Reports.

**Safeguarding:** Linda's report was received by the PCC. The Hub is taking up significant time, and a number of people need to renew their DBS checks and

Safeguarding training. Richard Adams will contact people directly. David thanked Linda, Richard and Mandy for their work both for St Andrew's and the Moorland parishes during the vacancy.

**Halton:** the QI work on Halton has started. David McEwan called last week but the builders were not there.

**Maintenance:** The minutes of the meeting on 8 May were received by the PCC. *Lady Chapel Project.* David was in correspondence with Neil Turner to come and do a congregational presentation on the Project.

*Cottage Guttering and drainage pipes.* This work has now been completed.

*Cottage Kitchen.* Linda gave a progress report. It is now envisaged that the work will begin in June to strip out the kitchen, and carry out the works to mitigate dampness including a replacement floor. The issue of under-floor heating was not yet resolved but would depend on costs. The next stage after that is to commission new kitchen fittings. It is intended that the works will be completed before 1350 begins.

**Events Committee:** the PCC received the report from Events, including Summer concerts and the Forum Books evening with the Revd Richard Coles.

**Eco and Environmental Committee:** The PCC received two sets of notes from the Eco Committee. Following on from discussion at the March PCC, Sam Lohead presented a paper with a proposal for PCC adoption. The paper addressed some of the concerns raised in March. After discussion the following proposal, 'The PCC make a formal commitment to improving environmental credentials by endorsing the undertaking of work towards an Eco Church Award' was proposed by Max Philbrick, seconded by John Wilson and agreed nem. con. David thanked Sam for his work in chairing the St Andrew's Eco Group and in the wider Deanery.

9. **Correspondence.** There was no further correspondence to report.

10. **AOB.** None.

11. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 17 July 2024

The meeting closed with Compline.