

**The Parish of Corbridge St Andrew with Halton and Newton Hall**  
**Minutes of the PCC held on Wednesday 17 July 2024 in The Cottage**

**Opening Prayer** The Vicar opened the meeting a reading and reflection on Romans 8 and with prayer.

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

- 1. Present** Canon David Kennedy (Chair), the Revd Linda Hunter, Edward Pybus, John Wilson, David McEwan, Janet Kennedy, Max Philbrick, Karen Harkness, Jen Lansberry. John Clark, Peter Cook, Alastair Lishman, Cliff Wright.

**Apologies** Jo Eldridge, Alice Stephenson, Nahida Remy.

David welcomed Alastair Lishman to his first meeting and Peter Cook in his capacity as new Churchwarden following the Archdeacon's Visitation.

- 2. Minutes of the PCC Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.** John Wilson proposed and Jen Lansberry seconded that the minutes be accepted. Agreed by all who were present.

- 3. Matters Arising:**

- **Standing Committee** John Clark agreed to join the Standing Committee.
- **CCP** Linda Hunter reported that there was little progress as the Trustees were still waiting for grant applications to proceed following the General Election. John Clark asked if CCP Trustees had met the new MP for Hexham as he would be an advocate. This would be raised at the next CCP meeting.
- **Sam Lohead's Licensing at Seaton Hirst.** This was a very happy occasion with good support from Corbridge.
- **Parish Administrator** Two candidates were being called to interview on Monday next. David expressed his gratitude to Hilary Hunter who has offered to cover two afternoons a week until a new appointment is made. Max Philbrick suggested that the Council should record its thanks to Hilary and this was agreed.

- 4. Mission and Ministry**

- **Slaley, Healey and Whittonstall.** David reported that a potential way forward for the oversight of the benefice was being discussed by the Deanery Development Group in consultation with the Archdeacon. He will report further at the next PCC.
- **1350 Update:**
  - Linda Hunter gave an over-view of 1350 preparations and her report is appended to these minutes.

- Alastair Lishman enquired about publicity. Linda replied that there will be blanket publicity through the web-site, social media, Corbridge Matters, leaflets and posters, and a brochure which will be distributed throughout the Parish.
- Interpretative signage and Core Beliefs – various examples of the interpretative signage posters, prepared by Max and Monica Philbrick, were distributed as potential examples and discussed.

The PCC reviewed was enthusiastic about the approach suggested. David expressed his gratitude to Max and Monica for the imagination and design of the posters.

Metal stands will be purchased to house them. We will need to have everything in place by the end of September.

Prayer and pilgrimage walk: David has previously produced a draft for the PCC. The PCC is content for this to now be put into leaflet format.

Ordinands from Cranmer Hall. David has not had confirmation that ordinands will be coming on placement; numbers entering theological college this year are very low across the Church so this may be a reflection of this, hopefully temporary, reality.

## 5. Projects

### • Lady Chapel

David introduced the potential glazing project following the visit of Neil Turner, the Architect, to address the congregation at the morning service on Sunday 14 July. Neil brought panels showing initial drawings of the proposed project and ideas for new heating, furnishings, acoustic banners and glazing. Neil himself said that the response over coffee was positive. David also referenced the report from Cliff Wright about the potential use of reserves and the Ross legacies, both the initial legacy of £25K in memory of Demelza and the much more substantial proportion of John's residual estate (c. K85-105 tbc). David reported that he had already received 3 additional pledges of generous donations.

There was a wide-ranging discussion, during which many members expressed support for the Project. Issues were raised such as the cost, the need to raise £60K ourselves and whether this was a project in search of a clear rationale. Others stressed the missional possibilities and enhanced opportunities to use St Andrew's creatively for the future. David reminded the PCC that 1350 gives us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do something substantial to mark this remarkable anniversary.

There was clear support by some of the Council to arrive at a decision at this meeting. However, the point was fairly made that as Neil had only presented the previous Sunday, there had been little time to gauge congregational response. David also said that Neil was intending to enquire about external permissions (listed building consent, Local Authority etc), and David reminded the PCC that this had not yet come to the main DAC meeting (there had only been a preliminary site meeting and report). A Faculty would be needed before any

work could be done, so the beginning of 2026 (pre-Lent) was the likely window for work to be carried out. Therefore, it was agreed to defer a decision to the September meeting. Meanwhile, Neil will do his investigations and David will request the next stage with the DAC. The PCC agreed.

- **The Cottage Kitchen**

Work on the Cottage kitchen is progressing. The floor has been excavated, a damp course and under-floor heating pipes installed. Plastering is to follow. The new kitchen units etc will be installed in mid-August. A new main door is being made for The Cottage. Decoration of the kitchen and ground floor needs to be organised. Further work has been done on external pipe-work and drainage.

The rationale for purchasing a glass-ware dishwasher was explained; it seems likely that some will prefer to hand-wash mugs and cups rather than use the dishwasher, although it can be used for crockery.

David thanked the Churchwardens, Jane Darbyshire-Walker, Jon Williams, Peter Steinlet, Linda, and members of the Church who had contributed to the design of the kitchen. It is exciting, at last, to see this work coming to completion.

## 6. **Finance**

The PCC thanked Cliff for his excellent, clear and comprehensive report on Project Funding which has brought welcome clarity to capital spending and the use and retention of reserves. It will continue to inform on-going discussion and decision-making.

**Giving Commitment Sunday.** Further to the report at the last meeting, a further £5K gift-aided donation has been received as a one-off gift. Planned giving has thus risen by 15% which is an outstanding result.

## 7 **Reports**

**Safeguarding:** a full report and review will be given in September.

**Halton:** David McEwan reported that the QI work previously agreed by the PCC has been completed.

**Maintenance:** The St Andrew's QI Report has been finalized and thankfully has not revealed anything major. The work to remedy the Vestry Roof is the priority, but the Maintenance Committee will produce a schedule of QI actions to present to the PCC.

**Architect:** The PCC will need to appoint a new Architect. Neil Turner is the obvious person but we will consult with Lucy Burfield pro tem.

**Health and Safety:** nothing to report this month.

**Events:** Linda Hunter's report was received by the Council.

**Eco and Environment Committee:** the report was deferred to September.

**Take 5:** no report this month.

**8 Correspondence:** none

**9. AOB.** David asked the PCC to keep our Associate Priest, the Revd Claire Robson, in our prayers following her recent diagnosis and treatment.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25 September at 7.30pm in The Cottage.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm with prayer.