



## The Parish of Corbridge St. Andrew with Halton and Newton Hall

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Dear members of St Andrew's and Halton

We are very excited about our 1350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Church beginning with the inaugural weekend on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October. I hope those dates are firmly in your diaries. The PCC has been exploring whether we can commemorate this remarkable anniversary by something to enhance our beautiful Church building. St Andrew's is greatly used on a seven-day-a-week basis. Morning and Evening Prayer are said daily, we have a thriving midweek communion, the Prayer Group meets weekly and the Methodist congregation twice monthly. Our new Sunday afternoon congregation, *Simply Worship*, uses the North Transept. We are finding that many baptism families and wedding couples value meeting the clergy in Church. Also, as a Church that is open every day, it is a place of encounter and often people want to talk personally or seek confidential advice.

However, there is no part of the present building that can be used for small groups and services, or private meetings that afford privacy, and that can be independently heated in the colder weather. We also hope to develop our ministry to families and children, but we need a safe space with suitable floor covering, and this is part of our vision for the next phase of our Church's life. Therefore, we have been exploring the feasibility of glazing in the Lady Chapel, with independent electric heating (which helps towards becoming carbon-neutral) and new flexible furnishings, to give us a unique and beautiful space.

At the 10am service on Sunday 14 July, our Architect Neil Turner will be with us to explain the project and enable the congregation to view initial drawings and ask questions. If we proceed (and no decision has yet been taken), this will require substantial funding. However, we have already received pledges of £37,000, and we can also use some of our reserves. If we (Church and Community) could raise an additional £30,000 we will be in a great position to apply for grants (as we did with the Organ Project in 2019). Please come on the 14<sup>th</sup> to learn more. 1350 seems an ideal opportunity to provide something of lasting worth.

Every blessing