

The Parish of Corbridge St Andrew with Halton
Minutes of PCC meeting held on Wednesday 24th January 2024
at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Cottage

David Kennedy opened the meeting with a reading from Ephesians and a prayer.

1. **Present:** Canon David Kennedy (Chair), Revd Linda Hunter, Val Barnes, Alice Bryant, John Clark, Jo Eldridge, Janet Kennedy, David McEwan, Carol Moffatt, Max Philbrick, Edward Pybus, Jean Wilks, Cliff Wright.

Apologies: John Wilson, Nahida Remy,

2. **Acceptance of Minutes of PCC Wednesday 22nd November 2023.**
Proposed by John Clark, seconded by Edward Pybus, agreed unanimously.

3. **Matters Arising:**

3.1 Licensing of Rev'd Claire Robson.

Licensing service led by Bishop Mark to take place on Saturday 27th January 2024. All are invited to celebrate with Claire as she becomes Associate Priest (Assistant Curate) in the parish of Corbridge with Halton and across the deanery.

3.2. Parish Administrator.

David K reported Hilary Hunter has made a tremendous start in settling into the Administrative role. She is a willing and very able, hard worker and her organisational skills are already providing support to the ministry team.

3.3. New Afternoon Service.

The new simpler afternoon service has been well received to date and will provide enrichment to the life of the parish.

3.4. Return of Sam Lohead.

At the request of the Dean, Sam has continued to work at the Cathedral during January, but has undertaken two services at St. Andrew's. He will return to St Andrew's full time from the 1st February 2024.

3.5. Take 5.

After distribution of Take 5 monies was agreed at the last PCC meeting (see minutes item 6.4), Max emailed PCC on 12th December proposing that half of the residual amount of £850, which had been allocated to Getachew, should now be transferred to the Pearts to meet an urgent shortfall in their funding. PCC members emailed their agreement to this change. Max's email is appended to these minutes.

4. **Ministry Team.**

Diane Wylie and Jo Eldridge have volunteered to train as Eucharistic Ministers and PCC gave unanimous approval that they be put forward for licensing. The development of the pastoral team is recognised as an asset to the parish, enabling the extension of worship into residential and care homes.

5. **Mission and Ministry.**

5.1. **Statement of Core Beliefs.**

There was wide ranging discussion around the draft statement of core beliefs prepared by David K to be available for those visiting St Andrew's, in particular during the 1350 celebrations. Points arising included:

- Alternative title of "Faith, Hope and Meaning".
- A boldly displayed banner showing St Andrews as a place of living faith.
- Must arrest visitors' attention, not just to the beauty of the building.
- Key areas to be identified with notes showing their connection to faith.
- A book for visitors to note down their response to what they have seen and whether they would welcome follow up.
- Identify key words and how they are actioned, e.g. faith, hope, charity, compassion, connection, devotion and curiosity.
- Proclaim faith is worth believing in and how and why it has survived – demonstrate.
- Aim to bring people to Christ for future centuries.
- Possibly a prayer walk in a more spiritual sense when the church is manned.
- Audio versions of information.
- Include something for children enabling further discussion within the family.

David asked PCC to bring any further thoughts to him, and proposed that we road-test with some visitors prior to September 2024.

5.2. **Worship and Discipleship.**

The booklet of Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services is almost complete, detailing events and services taking place, including a Lent talk by the Bishop, sessions on the Servant Songs and how they relate to Christ, Healing services to include the laying on of hands, and other events to be confirmed.

5.3 **1350th Anniversary.**

Linda updated PCC on planning to date and will circulate a report later. Momentum is building with a double page spread advertising details to appear in April edition of "Corbridge Matters".

5.4 **Take 5**

Minutes had been circulated to PCC for information.

Notice board display updated with encouraging case history and update on GAP.

The Goods on their return from Lebanon will be speaking at both the morning and River Services on Sunday 28th January. David K has attended a Zoom meeting with the Pearts and their Pastor in Bolivia discussing development of church links.

6. **6.1. Lady Chapel**

The Measured Survey of the church has now been received by the architects, enabling them to prepare proposals with indicative costings. A £7k grant towards the work has been received from Durham Community Foundation.

6.2. **Cottage.**

A paper had been circulated by Maintenance Committee outlining proposals to deal with the immediate priority to reduce the problems of water ingress and rising damp

on the south side of the cottage. Acceptance of items 1a, 1b and 2 were proposed by John Clark, seconded by David McEwan and agreed unanimously. It was acknowledged that consideration would need to be given to costs involved in replacing the kitchen units once the internal damp-proofing and insulation has been done. The original kitchen plan is to be reviewed by a group of regular users, because requirements may be different now that the Hub kitchen is also available for church events.

7. **Finance.** Report to be tabled at March meeting.

8. **Reports.**

8.1. Safeguarding.

The Safeguarding Dashboard is as up-to-date as possible. Richard Adams is working through the necessary renewal of DBS checks and training required to keep the Safeguarding Hub up to date.

8.2. Halton: nothing to report other than items detailed in Maintenance minutes.

8.3. Maintenance.

Minutes had been circulated to PCC for information.

DAC were not happy with the proposed solution to the leaking vestry roof and suitable alternatives are being investigated so work can be completed before the end of the year.

The Faculty application to close Newton churchyard and create a memorial garden has been submitted for consideration at the next DAC meeting.

8.4. Events Committee Update

Minutes had been circulated to PCC for information, including review of events in 2023 which raised almost £20k, £9,987 of which came from the Tree Festival, as well as events already planned for 2024.

8.5. Corbridge Community Partnership.

Efforts are ongoing to encourage use of the premises, working with Mandy Senior to ensure there is no conflict with the Parish Hall.

Contracts are being drawn up for future leasing of the premises and the team are working to find the necessary funding.

The appointed architects are to draw up plans for changes to the building.

9. **Correspondence.** None.

10. **AOB.**

David K has a meeting with the Bishop of Berwick and Archdeacon regarding the workload within the Moorland Benefice to enquire if any further resources are available.

11. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 20th March 2024.

The meeting closed with Compline.

Appendix 1 - TAKE 5

Re item 3.5: transcript of email sent following the last PCC meeting.

Date: 12.12.23

Re: Request for PCC to confirm changes to Take 5 grants

Dear PCC members. Please read the message below from Malcom and Max and respond to the office email which is cc'd into this email.

At the last PCC meeting, approval was given for all the grant requests made by the Take 5 committee (see minutes included in the PCC papers).

An element of this included a residue of £850 which was to be included in the grant to Getachew and Gesashign in Ethiopia, bringing their total to £2,850. None of the grants have yet been paid out by Cliff Wright.

In the last few days we have received a newsletter from our new CMS links, Andrew and Lisa Peart, to all their supporters. The newsletter makes clear that they have a significant shortfall in funding, which could put their work at risk. The Take 5 committee would like to make a rapid response!

We had allocated £2000 to them, and would now like to move half the residual £850 from the Ethiopian couple to them. The result would be grants:

to Getachew and Gesashign - £2425

to Andrew and Lisa Peart - £2425

There is no change to the total grants being made.

The Pearts' newsletter is available on the Take 5 noticeboard in church, will be on the church website, and is attached.

Please reply to this email to confirm your approval. If you have any questions, please contact Max Philbrick or Malcolm Warin.

Thank you
Max Philbrick