

HEXHAM ABBEY SIXTH PCC MEETING 2008-2009	We have a vision of a world where God's love is enjoyed, celebrated and shared. Therefore it is our mission to become an open community of Christ's disciples, sharing our worship, engaging our faith with the world and offering our lives to serve God's kingdom
Date: 17 March 2009	
Time: 1930	
Venue: The Monastic Workshop	

MINUTES OF MEETING: 17 MARCH 2009

Present: Canon G B Usher (Chair), Ms G Alexander, Mr J Arkless, Mr S Batey, Mr P Binks, Mr K Box, Rev A Currie, Mr R Dallison, Mr R Dance, Mr N Gaukroger, Miss N Horne, Mrs A Jeffries, Mr J B Jonas, Mr D Ratcliff (Secretary), Mr A Sinclair, Mrs S Snow, Mr R Thornton.

In attendance: Mrs J Musto, Mrs F Standfield (Hexham Abbey Project Manager)

- 08.07.01 Prayers were led by Rev Alan Currie
- 08.07.02 Apologies had been received from Mr H Everett, Dr M Howell, Mrs D Kilby, Mr E Lovell, Mr J Robinson, and Mrs R Ogilvie
- 08.07.03 Minutes of the Meetings held on 27 January 2009 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chair.
- 08.07.04 Matters arising from these minutes
- 08.07.04.01 Climate Change Initiatives

Anita Jeffries reported that the youth groups had tried to become involved but no appropriate initiative could be found. The Lenten Sermon Series had been widely appreciated. It was suggested that recordings might be made available, and this will be possible for the remaining Sundays.

DR/HM

Sue Snow reported on the latest adult learning initiatives. Two full groups of 10 to 11 people, and a smaller Friday group are engaged in the *Planetwise* materials in line with the sermon series. The material was being received enthusiastically.

Sue reported on the facilitators' meeting called to discuss a framework for adult learning in the parish. Some suggestions were made in a report which had been circulated. The Rector commended the clear thinking guiding this initiative forward. It

was confirmed that the chosen material was Bible based, and could lead towards a parish learning policy, or theology of education.

08.07.04.02 PCC/Staff Away day: 10 October 2009

Jane Musto reported that the Away Day would be held at the Red Cross Centre, Haugh Lane, Hexham. The hire of the rooms would be £50 for the day (1000-1600) and those attending would bring a shared lunch. The clergy will work with members on the day's content.

08.07.04.03 Appointment of Alex Woodrow as Assistant Organist

David Ratcliff reported on this appointment, with effect from 1 September 2009.

08.07.04.04 Abbey Teas

Sue Snow reported that there was still no coordinator, but helpful committee members were sharing the tasks in the job description. Helpers and customers are still needed.

08.07.04.05 Hexham East Residents' Association

JB Jonas reported that the next meeting of the association would be held on 18 May. It was also reported that Sure Start had kindly donated £2000 towards Education Officer time, and a further £1000 for the provision of Godly Play material.

08.07.05 Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting held on 3 March 2009 and matters arising from them

Members of the Standing Committee approved the acceptance of these minutes with some clarifications from Andrew Sinclair.

08.07.05.01 Lowgate

The Rector reported that there was still no progress with the neighbouring landowners. John Robinson is considering what next steps may be appropriate.

08.07.05.02 Youth trip authorisations

Authorisation of the Abbey Boys' Choir's trip to give a concert in

Haltwhistle and the Girls' Choir's trip to Paris in April was given by the Council.

08.07.05.03 Revision of Eucharistic booklets

It was reported that the new booklets had been received well, with a small number of criticisms from individuals attending the 8.30 congregation.

Some members felt that kneeling or sitting gave more chance to think and pray, but others thought it was good to stand throughout the Eucharistic Prayer. The idea of the two congregations experiencing the same service all of the time, rather than the current practice of only in some seasons, was welcomed. It was agreed that if both versions of the Lord's Prayer (traditional and *contemporary language*) were printed there would be the possibility of minor variation. It was agreed to continue with standing at the Eucharistic Prayer, and to have one booklet for each season.

08.07.05.04 Sunday Fundraising events

Roy Dallison explained the reasons behind the Standing Committee decision to limit the frequency and number of after-service sales but the Standing Committee had been asked by Chris Milner to review this decision. Increasing requests for such sales had led to Standing Committee decision. Chris Milner thought it was better for young groups to be involved in this active way (Sunday Club Fair Trade Action Group). Gill Alexander felt that, for the inclusion of young people, such involvement was to be encouraged.

It was suggested that a monthly exploration of Fair Trade and interaction with congregation by young people on the issue, plus a once per quarter sale, would be a possible way forward, and that if there was no demand from other groups, Fair Trade could have "spare" months. This received warm support and endorsement from members. The Rector warned against the dangers of overloading the congregation with requests and pressure if sales were allowed to proliferate.

The question of the regular sale of Easter and Christmas cards was raised. It was felt that such sales would be additional to the one-per-month policy.

08.07.06

Hexham Abbey Project: Report from Project Managers

Fiona Standfield referred members to the recently circulated report,

and highlighted the following points:

- No decision on the sale of the Clinic Building had been received from GVA Grimley. The issue was still under discussion by the Trust.
- The Business Plan has been circulated
- The deadline to submit the HLF application is the end of March. An important stage of development will be the meeting on Monday 23 March to meet the Chief Executive and also the Chairman of English Heritage.

Sue Snow reported that a recent national newspaper supplement sponsored by ONE NorthEast had disappointingly made no mention of Christian Heritage in the region. Fiona Standfield and James Arkless will follow this up.

08.07.07 Honorary Treasurer's Report

08.07.07.01 Annual Report and Accounts

Andrew Sinclair introduced the Annual Report and Accounts as audited by Ryecroft-Glenton. In summary the £16000 excess of expenditure over income is due to the reduction in the value of our investments.

It was proposed by Andrew Sinclair and seconded by Roy Dallison and

IT WAS AGREED unanimously

that the report and accounts be accepted.

08.07.07.02 Auditors' report and letter of representation

Following an introduction by Andrew Sinclair the Council agreed to authorise the Rector to sign a Letter of Authorisation to the Auditors.

08.07.07.03 Fraud

The PCC noted that if any member is aware that any fraud has been perpetrated during the course of the 2008 or since, it is now a statutory responsibility to bring it to the attention of the Abbey's accountant, Nigel Wyrley-Birch at Ryecroft Glenton.

08.07.07.04 Other financial matters

Andrew Sinclair reported that there had been no recent significant changes to the budget prediction since the start of the year.

AS

Ryecroft-Glenton's projected fees for auditing the accounts are still awaited before deciding whether to recommend to APCM.

08.07.08 Honorary Secretary's Report

08.07.08.01 The PCC were content to agree to Woodhorn obtaining digital copies of Parish Baptism records 1370-1911.

DR

08.07.09 Rector's Items

08.07.09.01 Registration of the PCC as a charity

The Rector confirmed new regulations that PCCs with an annual income in excess of £100,000 should register as a separate charity. David Ratcliff will attend a seminar on the issue on 30 April to represent the parish. [At the end of the meeting James Arkless offered any help that he could give].

GBU

08.07.09.02 Topic for presentation at the APCM

It was agreed that meeting the cost of our ministry and mission would be the subject for the main presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 19 April.

GBU

Frances Dower

The PCC agreed to mark to completion of Dr Frances Dower's placement as part of her Ordained Local Ministry training with a gift of a cassock alb.

Deposit of church registers

It was noted that the following documents had been deposited with the County Record Office, Woodhorn:

- Service Register – 9 August 1981-31 October 1993
- Confirmation Register -9 May 1957-29 November 1977
- Banns of Marriage – 12 March 1978-18 December 1983
- Banns of Marriage – 5 February 1984-21 April 1991
- Confirmation Register – 11 May 1920-17 April 1956

- Marriage Register 30 September 1972-2 May 1987
- Baptism Register 1948-1988
- Register of Services/Collections – 8 December 1985-25 May 2003

Fire Works

The Rector introduced literature advertising this major Diocesan event on the eve of Pentecost in Newcastle on 30 May 2009.

08.07.10

Deanery Synod Report

The next Synod meeting will be held on Thursday, 26 March.

08.07.11

Reports from Committees

08.07.11.01

Property Committee

Richard Thornton reported that the Church Buildings Council had agreed a grant of £6000 for the satisfactory display of the Anglo-Saxon Chalice. A further grant of £1000 had been offered by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

He proposed and Paul Binks seconded and

IT WAS AGREED unanimously that

we, the Parochial Church Council of Hexham Abbey accept the offer of a grant from the Church Buildings Council ("the Council") for the purpose and amount stated above ("up to £6000") on the basis that it is subject to the Council's Conditions for Grants, a copy of which we confirm we have received.

RT

It was noted that a condition of the grant is that the Abbey store the Chalice safely in an appropriate place until the case is made, and that this is still subject to faculty approval.

Funding from the Restoration Trust Fund will be sought to make up the projected cost of £9000 from the already promised total of £7000.

08.07.11.02

Social Committee

No Meeting

NH

08.07.11.03 Being Safe Committee

No Meeting

AJ

08.07.11.04 Aid and Global Issues Committee

A meeting had been held on 10 March. New committee members were needed. The work plan for 2009-2010 was established. Suggestions had been made for the resiting of noticeboards to provide better communication of the aid issue. The organisation of these boards is currently under review.

KB

It was noted with thanks that Frank Riley was taking over the leadership of Christian Aid collections on behalf of Abbey in May.

08.07.12

Churches Together in Hexham

The Council received a report from Pam Nobbs

The Rector reported the early stages of a plan for a period of continuous 24/7 prayer to be arranged for a week in the summer.

08.07.13

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Nora Horne reported that 6 new names had been added to the register:

- Fiona Finnon, 9 Beech Avenue, Hexham
- Olivia Moncrieff, Low Browngill, Nenthall, Alston
- Irene Morrell, 10 Holly Close, Hexham
- Douglas Vigor, 25 Blayney Row, Newburn, Newcastle
- Tom Kelsey and Fiona Kelsey, 9 Causey Way, Hexham.

NH

The PCC confirmed their approval and noted that the period for additions to the register closes on Sunday, 22 March.

08.07.14

Date of next meeting

APCM: Sunday 19 April after Morning Service

PCC: Tuesday 19 May 1930

08.07.15

Any other business

Several members had noted that recently the Abbey Shop had no

Hexham Abbey PCC 17 March 2009

Confirmation cards and no *Welcome to the Lord's Table* booklets.
The question was posed whether the Shop had enough of a link to parish events?

In cases of shortage of stock members were asked to pass comments and requests to the Shop Manager or to the Board of Directors.

David Ratcliff
20 March 2009