



HEXHAM ABBEY
HERITAGE • WORSHIP • COMMUNITY

The Priory and Parish Church of St Andrew



*St Etheldreda, medieval panel painting
Hamilton Kerr Institute Report 2017*

Agenda and Papers for
The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Annual Report and Summary Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2017

CONTENTS

Page

3	Agenda for the Meeting of Parishioners 29 th April 2018
4	Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 29 th April 2018
5	Minutes: Meeting of Parishioners 30 th April 2017
7	Minutes: Annual Parochial Church Meeting 30 th April 2017
11	Annual Reports
13	Rector's Report
16	PCC and Sub-Committee Reports
25	Brief HAHTL Report
26	Summary of Financial Report
33	APPENDIX 1: Brief extract from the Summative Evaluation Report 2017, The Hexham Abbey Project

HEXHAM MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS

- Vestry Meeting -
Sunday, 29th April 2018, 10.30am, Hexham Abbey

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Clerk to the Vestry
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last Meeting on 30th April 2017
4. Election of Churchwardens

HEXHAM ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday, 29th April 2018, 10.45am, Hexham Abbey

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last meeting on 30th April 2017
3. Matters arising from these Minutes
4. Report on the financial affairs of the parish
5. Submission of Accounts and Statements of the PCCs funds and property for approval
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Presentation of Church Electoral Roll
8. Elections to PCC
9. Appointment of Sidespeople
10. Safeguarding
11. Health and Safety
12. Rector's Slideshow Review of 2017
13. Looking Ahead
14. Any other business – please give 24hrs notice if you would like to raise something

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Vestry Meeting - 30th April 2017

Present: Dagmar Winter (Chair) and 140 plus Parishioners

Dagmar Winter chaired the meeting and welcomed the 140 plus persons present

1 Appointment of Clerk to the meeting

Sally McRobie was appointed Clerk to the Vestry Meeting
Nominated by Steph Bingham
Seconded by Brian Massey
All present were in agreement.

2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from the following people:

Richard Snow	Tony May	Simon Caudwell
Sue Snow	Chris Allcock	Lynn Caudwell
Peter Robson	Liz Allcock	David Ratcliff
Valerie Robson	Jill Hughes	Lynne Ratcliff
Shelagh Carter	Bruce Pimlott	Pam Carney
Robert Kinghorn	James Mackie	Jim Carney
Margaret Kinghorn	Michelle Mackie	Richard Thornton
Judith Robson	Vivienne Watson	Linda Thornton
Joan English	Hedley Everett	Michael
Carol Sanderson	Peter Cockerill	Darrington
Jennifer Britton		Paula Darrington

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 24th April 2016 had been circulated.
Proposed by John Mitchell
Seconded by Joan Barker
IT WAS AGREED that the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.

4 Election of Churchwardens

Churchwardens are the Bishop's officers in a parish. They are elected annually and there is a local custom here that they serve for up to five terms. The Churchwardens seeking re-election are Chris Wilson, Stephanie Bingham and Richard Snow. It was noted that Helen Milner and Russell Fairless would not be standing for re-election.

The following nominations had been received:

Nominee	Term started	Proposer	Secunder
Chris Wilson	2014	Sally McRobie	Rachel Ogilvie
Stephanie Bingham	2015	Chris Wilson	James Brady
Richard Snow	2015	Rachel Ogilvie	Chris Guilding
Rachael Haywood Smith	2017	Fiona Finnon	Jonathan Hewitt

Simon Caudwell

2017

Wendy Nott

Chris
Wilson

There were no further nominations. There being five candidates for five places, the above people were duly elected as Churchwardens of our Parish for the coming year, taking up their duties following Visitation on the 10th May at Wark.

On behalf of the PCC Fiona Finnon gave thanks for the dedication of the staff team and the amazing team of volunteers at the Abbey. Fiona Finnon gave thanks to Helen Milner and Russell Fairless for their contributions as Churchwardens.

Dagmar gave thanks to Fiona for her contributions as Lay chair.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

APCM - Sunday 30th April 2017

Present: Dagmar Winter (Chair), Fiona Fannon (Lay Chair), Sally McRobie (Secretary) and 55 Parishioners

17.01 Apologies

Dagmar Winter chaired the meeting and welcomed the 55 parishioners

Richard Snow	Tony May	Simon Caudwell
Sue Snow	Chris Allcock	Lynn Caudwell
Peter Robson	Liz Allcock	David Ratcliff
Valerie Robson	Jill Hughes	Lynne Ratcliff
Shelagh Carter	Bruce Pimlott	Pam Carney
Robert Kinghorn	James Mackie	Jim Carney
Margaret Kinghorn	Michelle Mackie	Richard Thornton
Judith Robson	Vivienne Watson	Linda Thornton
Joan English	Carol Sanderson	Jill Dexter
Peter Cockerill	Jennifer Britton	Michael Darrington
		Paula Darrington

17.02 Minutes

The Minutes of the APCM held on 24th April 2016 had been circulated. IT WAS AGREED that the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.
Proposed: Chris Wilson
Seconded: John Mitchell

17.03 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

17.04 Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish

Unfortunately Peter Cockerill (SR), Honorary Treasurer, was unable to give his report on the 2016 accounts due to illness. DW referred to the copy of the report contained within the APCM documents already circulated, and briefly presented some highlights via a powerpoint presentation. DW announced that a full copy of the accounts was available upon request.

Ken Newitt (KN - HAH Treasurer) gave a brief report. There are currently 120 volunteers, there has been a major expansion due to HLF activity plan, and considerable development of marketing of the Abbey and priory buildings - resulting in £120k visitors per year (up from 100k 2010). There has been growth in profit from shop, café and lettings. This has been a year of transition especially with the appointment of Owen Mills (OM), but also in the loss of Harry Cornforth as HAHTL treasurer due to work pressures, thanks were given for his contribution. It is hoped that a new treasurer will be able to come on to the board shortly. However some delays have been caused by this and put extra pressure on Rachel Ogilvie (RO) and OM.

The project is currently showing a small profit - but HLF contributions end this year. Forward planning to ensure future sustainability relies upon the successes of the café, shop and lettings.

KN gave particular thanks to RO for huge support to the various treasurers especially through significant difficulties and huge workload.

Thanks were also given to Dodds as accountants and it was recommended that the contract be renewed in due course.

There was a question from a member about outgoings exceeding income. It was explained that on the surface this did appear to be the case however if depreciation is taken out then income does exceed outgoings, and it was also noted that reserves are also rising.

DW gave thanks to KN, Roy Dallison, Harry Cornforth and Peter Cockerill.

- | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 17.05 | Submission of Audited Accounts and Statements of the PCC's funds and property for approval | Proposed by Helen Milner
Seconded by John Robinson
All were in favour by a show of hands. | | |
| 17.06 | Appointment of Auditor | Approve the re-appointment of Dodd and Co as auditors

Proposed: Dagmar Winter
Seconded: Carol Wilson
All were in favour by a show of hands. | | |
| 17.07 | Presentation of Church Electoral Roll | Sally McRobie, Acting Electoral Roll Officer, reported that the new Roll had been prepared and that there are a total of 358 names on it. 50 out of parish. | | |
| 17.08 | Elections | In the light of the vacancies for membership of the PCC the following had been nominated to serve as lay members on the PCC: | | |
| | PCC | Nominee | Proposer | Seconder |
| | 3 yr | Peter Cockerill | Lindsay Findlay King | Chris Wilson |
| | 3 yr | William Tyson | Fiona Finnon | Toni Bush |
| | 3 yr | Michelle Mackie | Margi McAlister | Hedley Everett |
| | Deanery Synod | Hedley Everett | Raymond Dance | Colin Dallison |
| | | Wendy Nott | Fiona Kelsey | Brian Massey |
| | | June Olliver | David Ratcliff | Douglas Vigor |
| | | David Ratcliff | Brian Walton | Derek Hughes |
| | | Carol Wilson | Janet Cobon | Margaret Massey |
| | | There were no other nominations and the meeting confirmed the election of these nominees. | | |

17.09	Appointment of Sidespeople	Chris Wilson – current team has 30 members meaning about 1 service a month. 2 longstanding members and standing down and three new members have joined. All were in agreement about reappointing. New members are always welcome and needed.
17.10	HAHTL developments	<p>Owen Mills (OM) gave a brief report. – Since his appointment, one key issue he has been addressing was that of awareness of the facilities in the Priory Buildings. We have a fantastic venue but our USP is our service; we offer a fantastic level of service, fantastic welcome and experience. Therefore, to promote awareness and word of mouth recommendations there are currently a huge range of activities going on. The strategy is aimed to make the Great Hall the first venue people think of when planning an event in Hexham. There has been an increase in revenue due to this strategy.</p> <p>2017 strategy is about revenue growth and 2018 profitability. We operate somewhere between a business and a charity. We need to make a profit but in an ethical way. Due to high demand, flexibility was needed between commercial and church use of the rooms. The café has been highly successful and has a great product and reputation. Focus now needs to be on efficiencies and synergies.</p> <p>DW thanked OM and asked OM to pass on thanks to all the HAHTL staff.</p>
17.11	Safeguarding	<p>Fiona Finnon (FF) – in addition to the report FF highlighted the amount of training taking place and to the aims of protecting our Abbey family and our welcome to visitors from near and far. More training will be coming and thank you for support.</p> <p>DW thanked FF for her work on Safeguarding.</p>
17.12	Health and Safety	<p>Sally McRobie (SMC) gave thanks for support in implementing new Health and Safety Strategies. The importance of health and safety as part of caring for our congregation and community and part of our welcome to visitors was highlighted.</p> <p>DW thanked SMC for her work on Health and Safety.</p>
17.13	Charitable Giving	<p>Local and global giving in 2016 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Luke’s Anglican Hospital in Gaza • Lazarus Home for Girls (Palestine) • WERS (West End Refugee Service) • NDAS (Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service) • FCN (Farming Community Network) • Hexham Holiday Club • Christian Aid
17.14	Slideshow Review of 2016	DW provided a commentary to accompany a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of the many events at the Abbey during 2016.

An organisational structure graphic was shown demonstrating the forthcoming disappearance of HAH, and the launch of a HA Development Trust (name and details yet to be confirmed).

A new parish giving scheme is to be introduced in 2017 this was explained briefly – more information will be made available in due course.

17.15 “Leading your Church into Growth”
Lynne Caudwell, David Ratcliff and DW will be undertaking a 3 day course on Leading your Church into Growth in a couple of weeks’ time. It aims to help identify strengths and plan for realistic growth and development.

The diocese has a new vision – ‘growing church bring hope’, again more to follow.

17.16 Any Other Business
Brain Massey – asked about management of the front car park. DW announced that plans are afoot to work with the council on the rear car park. Concerning the front car park, JR explained that the Abbey owns the land – but there is lack of clarity about Abbey clinic parking rights.

Dagmar thanked all who were engaged in the life of the Abbey. Thanks were given to Churchwardens and FF.

Composition of PCC (2017-2018) [21]			
Clergy	Churchwardens	Deanery Synod Representatives (2017 - 2020)	Elected Members
Canon Dr Dagmar Winter <i>(Rector)</i>	Stephanie Bingham <i>(re-elected Vestry April 2017)</i>	Hedley Everett David Ratcliff Carol Wilson	Lindsay Findlay-King (2017) Fiona Finnon (2016)
Revd Matthew Hunter <i>(Associate Priest)</i>	Richard Snow <i>(re- elected Vestry 2017)</i> Chris Wilson <i>(re-elected Vestry April 2017)</i>	Wendy Nott June Olliver	John Robinson (2015) Jason Robinson-Gay (2015) Peter Cockerill – Hon. Treasurer(2017)
Rev Alan Currie <i>(Assistant Priest)</i>	Rachael Haywood Smith <i>(elected Vestry April 2017)</i> Simon Caudwell <i>(elected Vestry April 2017)</i>		Vivienne Watson (2016) William Tyson (2017) Michelle Mackie (2017)
3	5	5	8

ANNUAL REPORT

The Parish of St Andrew, Hexham

- Hexham Abbey -

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2017

Charity registered number

1132444

Principal Office

Hexham Abbey Parish Centre
Beaumont Street
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 3NB

Independent Auditor

Dodd & Co Limited
FIFTEEN Rosehill
Montgomery Way
Rosehill Estate
Carlisle
CA1 2RW

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
Priestpottle
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 1PE

Incumbent

The Revd Canon Dr Dagmar Winter
The Rectory
Eilansgate
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 3EW

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or appointed in accordance with Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:

The Revd Canon Dr Dagmar Winter

Associate Priest:

The Revd Matthew Hunter

Assistant Priest:

The Revd Alan Currie (until death on 28th September 2017)

Churchwardens:

Mrs Steph Bingham (re-elected APCM 2017)
Mr Simon Caudwell (elected APCM 2017)
Mrs Rachael Haywood Smith (elected APCM 2017)
Mr Richard Snow (re-elected APCM 2017)
Mr Chris Wilson (re-elected APCM 2017)

Representatives on Hexham Deanery Synod (serving a three-year term, 2017 - 2020):

Mr Hedley Everett
Mrs Wendy Nott
Mrs June Olliver
Mr David Ratcliff
Ms Carol Wilson

Elected Members:

Peter Cockerill – Hon Treasurer
Fiona Finnon – Lay Chair
Dr Lindsay Findlay-King
Mrs Michelle Mackie
Mr John Robinson
Mr Jason Robinson-Gay
Mrs Vivienne Watson
Mr William Tyson

In Attendance:

Mrs Sally McRobie - PCC Secretary & Mrs Rachel Ogilvie - Finance Officer

Hexham Abbey PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Rector in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at Hexham Abbey and to become part of the church community. In addition it has an important outreach to the estimated 120,000 a year visitors, tourists and pilgrims to the Abbey. The PCC has contact, through its database, with many more individuals who see themselves as connected with the life of the Abbey and it keeps in regular contact with them. The PCC maintains an overview of worship at the Abbey and makes suggestions about how services and outreach serve the needs of people who live in the parish and the wider area. When planning its activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, it tries to enable people to live out their faith as part of the Abbey's parish community through its VISION:

of a world where God's love is enjoyed, celebrated and shared

and its MISSION ACTION PLAN which states that:

Inspired by Andrew, Wilfrid and Etheldreda,
we seek to grow:
in breadth and numbers,
in faith and learning,
in prayer and generosity.

To facilitate this work, the PCC maintains the fabric of the Abbey, the Parish Centre and, through Hexham Abbey Heritage, the Priory Buildings (Carnaby Building and former Magistrates' Court

Building) and adjoining land. It also employs a number of staff and enjoys the service of over one hundred volunteers.

RECTOR'S REMARKS

Hexham Abbey's mission is promoted

- through the work of the PCC and its sub-committees,
- in the ongoing rich and varied life of the church of which you will read something in the following pages, and
- with the support of our brilliant team of staff and volunteers.

Statistics 2017 (2016)

- 343 (368) people on the Church Electoral Roll
- 384 (334) communicants on Easter Eve and Easter Day
- 567 (457) total attending services on Easter Eve and Easter Day
- 1,333 (625) at special Advent services for congregation and local community
- 2,460 (1,625) at special Advent services for schools or civic organisations
- 510 (461) communicants on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- 2,055 (2,460) total attending services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- 19 (18) baptisms conducted
- 12 (8) couples married in church
- 47 (43) funerals were conducted, of which 29 (24) were held in the Abbey
- 3 (1) adults and 1 (5) young person were confirmed

Some of the Highlights

Visitor numbers have risen again, estimated in the region of 120,000 for 2017, and the PCC is grateful for its volunteer stewards and guides.

In 2017 the PCC began to work on its Mission Action Plan which was also resourced by a small team from the Abbey who went on a Diocesan-facilitated course "Leading Your Church into Growth". A review of the statistics reveals increased attendance at our special services, for festive occasions or for particular groups (and we have increased the number of some of these services), but a gentle decline at our regular services.

Therefore, it has been particularly pleasing to note a rapid increase in choristers, both boys and girls, with a new Junior Girls' Choir singing regularly once a month in Abbey Praise, and many bring their families with them.

Messy Church has also been a great highlight since it began in the summer.

The Christmas Light switch on was again followed by very popular Hot Chocolate in the Abbey, the choirboys singing around the piano, and it concluded with a sung service of compline.

We continue to nurture supportive relationships with West Northumberland Food Bank, Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service, the Community Partnership, Hexham Youth Initiative and Hexham East Stakeholder Group.

Apart from the pastoral work of the clergy, a dedicated team of lay ministers takes Holy Communion to local care homes and to those who are housebound, and the Pastoral Visiting Group offers visits to those who are housebound.

For Hexham Abbey Festival in September, the Abbey once again hosted a Festival Eucharist with a visiting preacher, the Dean Emeritus of Durham, the Very Revd Michael Sadgrove.

Worship is at the heart of what we are about, from offering people spaces to explore prayer at any time during the day through the Abbey building, to the monastic tradition of Morning and

Evening Prayer offered daily, from the Sunday Parish and mid-week Eucharists to Abbey Praise and Tots' Praise and Messy Church. Huge thanks are due to Austin Winstanley and James Brady, our vergers, who enable it all to happen, and personal thanks from me also to my colleague Matthew Hunter and our team of 'retired' priests, Frank Dexter, Janet and Michael Jackson, Chris Simmons, and Nigel and Mary Warner, for their considerable support to the life of the Abbey and to me.

A member of the Abbey, Lynn Caudwell, became an ordinand and started training this year. Although on placement at another church in the deanery, we were very grateful that she and her husband Simon ran for us an Enquirers' Course into the Christian faith in 2017 which proved to be inspiring to those participating - whether it was a first serious exploration or a refresher. Look out for the next one!

One of our great fundraising events, the Abbey Christmas Fair, coinciding with the town's Christmas Market, once again drew capacity crowds. Our thanks to Wendy Nott and Carol Wilson for helping with its organisation.

With all the fundraising going on, I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to all those of you who generously give regularly. It is easy to forget that with all our enthusiasm and voluntary support, running costs are inevitably still demanding. We are grateful to our patrons, the Worshipful Company of Mercers, for their help with our insurance costs. Nonetheless, paying the utility bills, renewing equipment such as safety harnesses, buying office consumables, to name but a few items, are all part of the constant draw on our money that needs to be met. And clergy stipends, clergy pensions for those who have served in the past, training costs for those who will be our priests in the future, and supporting poorer parishes in our Diocese is part of our Parish Share. So, a heartfelt thank you to those of you who support Hexham Abbey regularly which is a huge help with our financial planning. If you do not yet do this but are in a position to do so, please consider regular giving.

You will read in the following pages various reports written both by staff members and volunteer leaders and I am in awe of the commitment and sheer hard work they all put in. It will not always be immediately obvious what outstanding and sometimes difficult work they do and I pay tribute to them, as well as to those not named with whom they work.

Staff News

In January 2017 the vergers' team happily regained full strength with James Brady joining Austin Winstanley.

In the summer it was time to thank Marcus Wibberley for his work with us as he moved on from his post as Director of Music. The then Assistant Organist, Michael Haynes, was appointed his successor and Keith Dale was appointed Assistant Organist in the early autumn.

At the end of 2017, Volunteer and Events Manager Jane Musto left Hexham Abbey after 19 years with us and was given a good farewell.

In December 2017 we welcomed Lucy Orton, Events and Lettings Manager, and Saffronn Scott, Business Administrator.

Undoubtedly the most sadly momentous news last year was the death of Rev Alan Currie, Assistant Priest, in September. The Abbey community, Queen Elizabeth High School and the whole town were devastated. Alan had been seriously ill during the year but his death was unexpected. His funeral service, in the presence of both the Bishop of Newcastle and former Rector, the Bishop of Dudley, filled the Abbey to capacity and many, many tributes were paid on social media to an outstanding and inspiring teacher, priest and friend.

Plans for 2018

A key task will be a fundraising campaign for various capital projects, in particular the roof (work planned for 2019) but also, following the installation of a new boiler in this year, preparation for much more efficient underfloor heating in 2019. Alongside this there is the constant call to meet our running costs to which end the PCC decided last year to work with a Parish Giving Scheme which we plan to combine with a Stewardship Campaign.

It will be important for these efforts to be integrated with the furtherance of our Mission Action Plan.

In order to facilitate a more efficient way of operating, managing and leading the whole organisation, a review of our structures is also planned for 2018.

Organisation - a word of explanation: PCC - HAH - HAHTL

October 2017 was the Grant Expiry Date for the major Heritage Lottery Fund Grant and a review document summarized the significant achievements of the past years. The PCC owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to all, staff and volunteers, who supported the enormous task of making "The Project" the success it has become.

At the end of this document you will find a **Brief Extract of the Evaluation Report** of "The Project". Thanks are due to Catriona Mulligan and Toni Bush for preparing this. We are particularly indebted to Toni who took on the enormous and onerous task of looking after our Activity Plan which had been agreed with HLF.

The vehicle created to draw down the grant was Hexham Abbey Heritage (HAH), a charitable company which was responsible for the refurbishment of the Priory Buildings as part of the Hexham Abbey Project and for the operation and maintenance of the buildings under a lease from the PCC. The PCC is the sole member of HAH.

HAH established in turn a separate non-charitable company, Hexham Abbey Heritage Trading Ltd (HAHTL), to undertake the day-to-day delivery of services in the Priory Buildings. HAH was the sole shareholder of HAHTL and responsible for the appointment of its directors. In accordance with the terms of the Asset Transfer Agreement between HAH and the PCC, HAH transferred its share in HAHTL to the PCC on 31 December 2017. At the close of the financial year Hexham HAH transferred its net assets including the Priory Buildings to the PCC, the lease of the Priory Buildings was assigned to Hexham Abbey Trading Ltd. A decision will be taken in due course as to whether to retain HAH as a dormant company or to wind it up.

HAHTL continues to be responsible for the operation of the *Refectory* Café and the letting of rooms in the Priory Buildings, as well as the Abbey Shop, which it manages in its existing premises alongside the Abbey. It operates on a commercial basis and has made qualifying charitable donations to HAH equivalent to its entire net profit, thus reducing its corporation tax liability to nil. In future, such donations will be made to the PCC.

I am extremely grateful to the board members of HAH for their commitment and expertise over the last few years which included some difficult negotiations which were superbly managed to benefit the Abbey. I would like to pay particular tribute to John Robinson, Secretary, and Ken Newitt, Treasurer.

The Board of HAHTL changed with the resignation of Ivan Pickard who had offered faithful service going back to the days of the Shop pre-dating HAHTL, and thanks are due to him. In the course of 2017 we welcomed Mark Squires and Mark Hatton who both enrich the Board with considerable experience and who serve alongside Ken Newitt and Peter Cockerill (PCC Treasurer and HAHTL Company Secretary). I am hugely indebted them all.

And thanks, as ever, to the sterling support I continue to receive from the PCC Standing Committee.

In conclusion

As you receive this document, it is my prayer that it will convey to you a sense of belonging to this community of faith. We are on a journey, seeking to grow in breadth and numbers, in faith and learning, in prayer and generosity, and each person has something to contribute to this.

We are blessed with the extraordinary treasures of the Christian faith which come to us in word and sacrament and in the heritage of the Abbey, and together we pray that we are a blessing to those who we seek to serve.

There is much and much more to do in order to encourage more people of all ages to discover and explore the presence of God in this world and in their lives, and thus to welcome God's kingdom of justice, grace and compassion which Jesus proclaimed. Your continued and strengthened commitment and support in this is vital and deeply appreciated.

Thank you.

Dagmar Winter, Rector

PCC AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of PCC Secretary

Hexham Abbey PCC met six times in 2017, with an average attendance of 13.8.

Key discussions during this period were regarding; The Deposition loan to Auckland Castle, development of the Mission Action Plan, approval of the garden plans, the Hamilton Kerr Institute report on the medieval panel paintings, ticketing of major services, the finalisation of Hexham Abbey Heritage, the end of the HLF Project and staff changes. Regular reports were received from the Rector, Treasurer, Safeguarding Committee, Property Committee, HAH, and Deanery Synod, and Health and Safety. Ongoing issues include: the post HLF structure and plan, Mission Action Plan and stewardship.

Sally McRobie

Electoral Roll Report

Over the year the Electoral Roll has slightly decreased in number and now has 343 names on it, 50 of which are from outside of the parish.

- 17 have died or moved away and one was ordained
- 3 have joined since the last APCM

Only the people whose names appear on the Roll have voting rights at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

In order to be on the Roll a person should be baptised, at least 16 years old, a member of the Church of England (or certain other churches) and either resident in the parish or habitually attending worship in the parish for 6 months prior to enrolment. Note that those who do not live in the parish should attend services in order to remain on the roll (unless they are prevented from attending by illness).

Sally McRobie

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The Terrier and Log book are up to date and available for inspection

Richard Snow

Property Committee

On behalf of the PCC the Property Committee oversees the maintenance and repairs to the Abbey and Priory buildings and any capital items carried out to improve the Abbey's facilities.

In the past year maintenance repairs have including works to the nave chandeliers, the drainage system throughout the site following a CCTV survey, and the external plastered ceiling to the walkway between the Parish Office and Prior Leschman's garden. A full electrical survey of the Abbey has been produced to aid in the understanding of the buildings' electrical capacity. The lantern over the slype door from Beaumont Street has been refurbished and reinstalled. An environmental specialist was employed to produce a report to understand better the environmental performance of the Abbey, and will help inform how the comfort of Abbey users can be improved and also safeguard the fabric and artefacts in the Abbey. This is particularly relevant as changes to the heating system are considered. During 2017 much work has been undertaken together with the Abbey Architect to develop a strategy for undertaking works identified in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection Report. External stone conservation works will start to the north and west elevations of the Abbey in 2018, with a new boiler, and roofworks planned for 2019.

Richard Thornton (Chair of the Property Committee)

Conservation

2017 saw the end of the Conservation Phase of the HLF Project. It was recognised with a Study Day, well attended by Abbey congregation and historians from far and wide. It was also marked by the publication of a book – 'Hexham Abbey Revealed' – available from the shop, Amazon or any good bookseller. I trust you all have a copy!

Much work has gone into what is probably one of the best quality church – or cathedral – inventories in Britain, listing details and photographs of almost all our treasures big and small which mark our history. Selections of the catalogue are available on the Abbey website. Our national-level Anglo-Saxon and mediaeval stones have been better recorded and now have suitable storage. In addition, our eighty-plus mediaeval panel paintings, following a special Cambridge University study, are now being recognised as one of the major church collections in Britain. We now have a documented plan for the next several phases of care to ensure their safe condition. Less visible have been skilled conservation activities to care for the Abbey's clerical vestments; we have this year tidied, and better recorded, many of the important gravestones in the vicinity of the Abbey.

To get the message across about the Abbey and its past, there have been a number of exhibitions featuring the Abbey's historic prayer books, vestments and paintings. We regularly give information to home and overseas enquirers, together with support for first and second-degree students; and we try to provide fuller information on a range of topics for Abbey stewards and guides. Once again, we have continued our series of 'Ten Minute Talks' held each January with Abbey and guest speakers. Next year will see the fiftieth talk being presented to the Abbey. We look forward to your continued support.

Tom Kelsey (Chair of the Conservation Team)

Aid and Global Issues Committee (AGIC)

The Aid and Local Issues Group organized Christian Aid Week again, with special support from Larry Bush, and also allocated its budget by supporting the Holiday Club, Music fees for charitable carol services, and the remainder (which is the bulk) to the following charities:

- 25% USPG: Education for Change, Sri Lanka
- 25% West End Refugee Service
- 25% Lazarus Home for Girls, Bethany
- 20% The People's Kitchen, Newcastle
- 5% Farming Community Network

Dagmar Winter

Flower Arranging Team

2017 proved a somewhat topsy-turvy year for me at least, if not the whole team. A health scare just before Easter meant that I had hurriedly to delegate organising the Easter flowers to the team, along with early meetings to discuss the proposed Flower Festival to be staged in the Abbey in July by Hexham Flower Club, and for which I did not anticipate being fit enough to take part. As before, the team stepped up to the mark and stood in for me. However, I had a reprieve and was able to take part in the Easter flower displays, several weddings and in organising the Abbey team's contribution to the July Flower Festival. This involved displays in the Old Choir Stalls and Chancel of white flowers and lots of greenery, which were much admired by visitors and proved an oasis of peace and calmness which contrasted with the rather flamboyant displays in the other areas of the Abbey.

Earlier that month we took part in an Abbey Praise service, where various members of the team talked about the meanings and significance of flowers throughout history and in Christian and other cultures, and then the whole team were on hand to help while the congregation members were invited to come up and select a flower or piece of foliage to insert in a floral foam cross, the result of this was quite stunning.

More weddings followed over late summer and autumn, and then the final wedding of the year coincided with Christmas Eve, and the bridal party were able to contribute to and benefit from the lovely displays of deep red and frosty silver. Once again, I was out of action due to planned foot surgery, but with advance planning and great help from the team, an excellent job was done. I should like to express my thanks to all of them for their great support over the year.

Sheila Dance

Hexham Abbey Bell Ringers

Our primary purpose of ringing for services throughout the year was achieved with very few exceptions. Attendance at ringing for both services and practices has increased. Standards of ringing are improving.

There have been 22 quarter peals including a Date Touch. There have been two peals, one by a visiting band, the other mostly a D&N band.

I remain grateful to tower officers, ringers and Abbey members for their support in their various ways.

Jeremy Housden (Tower Captain)

Safeguarding

The Abbey Safeguarding team meets monthly to address all safeguarding issues and develop protocols for the Abbey. It comprises Fiona Finnon, Lynne Ratcliff and Sally McRobie. 2017 has been another busy year, a highlight being able at last to do online DBS applications which has made the whole process much more straightforward. Sally has undertaken a risk assessment of all Abbey buildings which resulted in the development of a Lone Worker's Policy. Sally attended Safer Recruitment training and the group reviewed all volunteer role descriptions resulting in the development of a new volunteer recruitment pack. Safer recruitment has been streamlined across the site. A set of bell tower protocols have been developed in partnership with the Tower Captain and Fiona and Lynne continue to work closely with the Pastoral Visiting team to address any concerns as they arise.

Fiona Finnon (Safeguarding Officer)

Hexham Deanery 2017

This is the report of the activity of Hexham Deanery in 2017. We felt it would be valuable, for consistency, for parishes to receive a common Deanery report, though Deanery Synod members are encouraged to add to it their own perceptions and emphases.

The Deanery Synod is composed of 5 members of the House of Clergy and 24 members of the House of Laity. Rev Jeremy Thompson, Rector of St John Lee and Warden with Newbrough is the Area Dean, David Ratcliff (Parish of Hexham) is the Lay Chair, and passed on the office of Deanery Finance Officer during the year to Nigel Collingwood (Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw), and Sheila Williams (Parish of Holy Cross, Haltwhistle) is Deanery Secretary. Other members of the Deanery Standing Committee/Development Group are Evelyn Braid (Parish of St John Lee), Stephen Porteus (Parish of Alston), Rev Jon Russell (Rector of Allendale and Whitfield with Ninebanks) and Rev Andrew Patterson (Rector of Whitley Chapel).

Unusually in 2017 the Deanery met in Synod four times. In March we were addressed by Ruth Rogan, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser as we vowed to support all parishes to meet new Safeguarding requirements. She reported that courses helping parishes to meet these requirements were running regularly and were of great practical value. To our rural parishes she confirmed that “sharing” Parish Safeguarding Officers was acceptable.

In April we welcomed the new Bishop of Berwick, Mark Tanner, on his full-diocesan visit to the Deanery. He led our thinking about discipleship and learning opportunities. This has given impetus to the offer from Hexham Abbey of access to group study materials and to possibilities of cross-parish learning groups.

We welcomed Paul Rickeard, Director of Education for the Newcastle and Durham Dioceses, to address the Synod on the challenges facing schools, particularly the many rural Church Schools. This served as a very timely introduction to the Northumberland County Council Consultation Education in the West, which launched early in 2018.

The notion of Pilgrimage having been regularly discussed within the Deanery and, championed by Evelyn Braid, the idea to have a series of linked pilgrimages over the next few years burst into reality. Two pilgrimages – from St John Lee, via Hexham Abbey, and from Allendale – converged on Whitley Chapel and a sumptuous tea was followed by a wonderful and unforgettable Songs of Praise at St Helen’s. Truly the Deanery coming together.

Every parish frequently refers to its wish to develop an outreach to young people and children. To satisfy this ambition Rev Rachel Scheffer, from the Diocesan Youth Team, gave us some useful practical pointers at a Synod meeting at Knarsdale.

In line with one of the five strands of the Diocesan initiative growing church bringing hope Rev Jonathan Mason, Diocesan Adviser on Rural Affairs updated the Synod on work that it being developed across the Diocese, with particular focus on the initiatives exploring new strands of ministry.

Year-long progress has been made towards an initiative to re-imagine the Deanery. This is partly driven by the growing identified desire to exploring new ways in which Laity and Clergy can work together to maintain and grow the kingdom of God in our area. It is likely that the number of stipendiary clergy will reduce in the next years and, especially important during this period of clergy stability, we need to find new and positive ways of resourcing our deanery’s mission. For this reason, meetings were held throughout 2017 with churchwardens of parishes individually and with clergy to hear hopes and fears at a local level. This was followed by a very constructive Conference held at St John Lee in October, at which ideas were explored about how we might best set principles against which to recommend changes. The ultimate goal is to produce a Deanery Vision (attached) and to present suggested scenarios to the Bishop that she may consider when making new clergy appointments in the future. The process will conclude in 2018. Finally some really remarkable and very good news. Nigel Collingwood’s arrival as our Deanery Finance Officer has led to parishes responding very positively to the call to meet 100% of our Parish Share. Whilst the Deanery has been struggling in the low 90% area for the last few years, this year our payment rate was over 99%. Many thanks to every Treasurer and the parishes for this excellent effort.

David Ratcliff

Hexham Abbey Youth work

Tots' Praise continues to provide a sociable, fun, and faithful shared space for children and their parents/grandparents/carers.

Junior Church This has been revived after a very brief hiatus, and continues thanks to a small team of dedicated volunteers/parents, meeting in the Etheldreda Room, using *Roots* material.

Sanctuary came to a conclusion in the summer – a worthwhile experiment, but not especially successful numerically.

Messy Church began in September, coordinated by Jane Abrams and Matthew, with excellent volunteer and verger support. Meets monthly in the Abbey, and has had a great response, culminating in a Christingle in December, attended by over 60 children and adults.

Confirmation Matthew led a short course based around *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

Ecumenism Matthew is on the Hexham Holiday Club Steering Committee.

Matthew Hunter

Film Clubs report

Screen@6 came about as the fruit of a conversation between Matthew and a member of the congregation who wanted to explore themes of spirituality and human stories through film. The resulting collaboration meets monthly in the Priory Buildings, and has shown a variety of thought-provoking movies from *Lost in Translation* to *It's A Wonderful Life*.

Silver Screen began in the summer as an attempt to utilise in-house enthusiasm, and offer a Dementia-friendly event on a regular basis. Meeting monthly in the Abbey, it has proved extremely popular. It combines classic cinema with volunteer baking!

Matthew Hunter

Poetry Group

The Poetry Group met during Lent, following Malcolm Guite's anthology 'The Word in the Wilderness'. This is a well chosen selection of poems, including several of his own compositions and culminating with George Herbert's 'Easter'. Malcolm Guite is a Cambridge don, so his commentary was stretching, but he proved a good companion on the journey.

We reconvened for Advent, starting with a recital of TS Eliot's 'Four Quartets'. This was a free event, open to all.

We then continued with Malcolm Guite and his anthology for the season, 'Waiting on the Word'. Once more the journey proved challenging but worthwhile. The poem for 26th December was Richard Bauckham's 'Song of the Shepherds', and the last two lines of that poem make a good summary of our experience:

'~ an earthly echo of the song that banished dark.
It has stayed with us.'

Stephen Halliday

Sidespeople

A team of 27 sidespeople welcomed our congregations to the Abbey during 2017. Margery Wylie retired from this role after many years service. We are very grateful to her.

Each of the team was on duty approximately once a month, providing a welcoming smile, orders of service and hymnbooks, any other help and direction needed and help in the taking of collections during services. They also responded generously to appeals for extra help at special services during major festivals.

Their role is an important and highly valued part of our ministry of hospitality and the Churchwardens, in particular, are very grateful to them.

Chris Wilson

Altar Linen Carers

We are a small group of 11 people who wash and iron the altar linen on a rota basis.

Each week, usually after the 10.00am Sunday service, we collect the small items from the Vestry. Regularly there are Purificators, the small square cloths used to wipe the chalice after each communicant has received the wine, the Lavabo Towel used by the priest to dry their hands after ritual washing just before the Eucharistic Prayer and Corporals, a larger square cloth put on the altar as it is prepared to hold the elements for Consecration, again before the Eucharistic Prayer. Occasionally there are also Baptismal towels to dry the baby's head.

Having washed and ironed these pieces they are returned to the Vestry, or left neatly outside on the ledge for the Verger.

When needed the Altar cloths and Credence table cloths also need to be washed, ironed and rolled on their labelled cardboard rolls, making it easier for the correct cloth to be found in the cupboard for a particular place!

This is all a necessary but largely hidden activity in the life of the Abbey for which I thank all the people involved. Full instructions on the folding processes are always given to any new people who wish to join the rota.

Jill Dexter

Altar Servers

The role of the altar servers is to assist the clergy during Eucharistic services, sometimes this is on a quiet Sunday and sometimes this is at a huge celebration like Easter Sunday. Whichever service it is, we all enjoy being part of the team and think of it as a great privilege.

We currently have 13 people on the team serving at 8.30 and 10 am services. We have been joined this year by Euan Goodwin, when he isn't in the choir, on every 3rd Sunday and by Jean Begley at 8.30 .

As circumstances change people come and go and though we are a very faithful band there is always room for more people to join us. Please come and talk to myself or Dagmar if it something you might like to do. Training will be offered and most people just serve once a month.

Vivien Drydon

Visiting Group

We continue to visit church members who are housebound and our visits are much appreciated. Our original Visiting Guidelines were edited and expanded. New Protocols were drawn up to reflect the need for Safeguarding, including suitable prayers for different occasions.

We discussed major issues this year, amongst which were:

- Referring the vulnerable without relatives to the Safeguarding Committee as we cannot be involved in providing practical help. Our remit is only visiting.
- If someone is frail in any way, providing we are given the name of their G.P., we have the right to contact him or her under N.H.S. rules.
- We need the Congregation to be aware of the work we do so that we can enlist their help to know who is missing. Also new people - they might have relatives who would appreciate being visited. This should be part of The Abbey 'welcome' - to everyone, new or not.
- With the Clergy we decided that we should offer short-term post-bereavement visiting following a period of time after a funeral.

Fiona Kelsey

Social Committee

The format of events during the year has taken the form of lunches at different venues. These are aimed at retired people as they are held during the week. Arrangements were made to collect people who were less able to travel, and safety and access were always a major feature of organising. They were all a great success. A price for the two-course meal was always negotiated and never exceeded £15. It was often less.

Thursday coffee mornings were arranged but gradually tailed off. They came to an end due to lack of support.

Fiona Kelsey

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group continues to meet on Thursday morning in the Abbey where we offer to God requests left by visitors as well as praying about international, national and local concerns. One person returns each year to give thanks for a prayer answered; this year she was prevented by the snowy weather so sent us a card instead. We have also offered prayers personally requested by members of the congregation and are always pleased to do this.

Elizabeth Fish

Monday House Group

Monday Housegroup (1415-1545 each term-time Monday, alternating between Riding Mill and Hexham) has continued to meet with its 12-13 members throughout the year. We started with some deep reflections on The Lord's Prayer which led us into Lent and a study of "The Church as God's People". we welcomed two new members to accompany us through Lent. In the summer we used the inspiring book by Jane Hawking, "The Mystery of Everything", (see the prayer below) using scenes from the biopic of Stephen, unaware of course that he would have died by this time. Our final team looked at an interpretation of the theology of the Reformation. In addition we were front and centre of the "Not the Sunday Lunch" programme on all the Lenten Sundays, and we shared a day of reflection with other house groups at Shepherd's Dene in April.

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts,
That the God who breathed this world into being,
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing,
Is the God who entrusted his son
to the care of ordinary people,
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the wonder of Love.
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp.
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

We sometimes hear that people think that our housegroup is "closed" or "full". Neither description could be further from the truth and we are happy always to talk to people about joining our group for a short number of weeks or longer.

David Ratcliff and Sue Snow

Education and Community Engagement

2017 was an exciting and dynamic year for education and community engagement work at the Abbey. There was a sense that we had been through a steep learning curve in 2015/6 and were now fully up and running: we had discovered what activities worked well, how to communicate better what was on offer and were developing a theological understanding of how these heritage-community events fitted into the mission of the church.

There was a busy programme of varied and seasonal events – popular 'hygge' afternoons at the start and end of the year, Abbey-linked workshops such as on calligraphy and stained glass, and family craft drop-in sessions in each school holidays which included an interactive Easter story trail. We celebrated the Abbey's history as part of the new Northumberland Day with a costumed interpretation event *Turbulent Tales*.

One particular highlight was the on-going project with Film Able to produce the introductory film of the Abbey *Set in Stone* (now available on the Abbey's website). It was a joy to work with the group of adults with learning disabilities and see them fall in love with the Abbey and its story. Another memorable event was the repeat of *Skeletons in the Abbey*, this year working with people from other churches through Hexham Holiday Club, bringing the Christian story and traditions into the middle of Spook Night in the town. And continuing throughout the year ran the varied visits from schools near and far. 'The best day ever' was the feedback from one Year 5 pupil – even if his dog did eat his carved soap from the stonemasons workshop!

Toni Bush and Jane Abrams

Operations Report

Accident Record: During 2017 there were 36 reports made. 19 accidents, 12 incidents and 5 near misses. 13 involved staff and 23 were visitors/congregation.

As a result the following actions have been implemented:

- One staff briefing and protocol clarification
- Risk Assessment update and revised protocol
- Installation of warning notices
- Supply of PPE to relevant staff members
- Installation of temporary lighting in Cloister

The largest single issue was that of slips/trips and falls. 4 accidents/near-misses on Night Stairs, 3 in the Café and 6 outside.

First Aid

Currently we have the following staff first aid trained:

1. James Brady
2. Austin Winstanley
3. Keith Dale
4. Jeremy Housden

There are 7 first aid boxes around the site, these are inspected monthly.

Risk Assessments: The Fire Risk Assessment was reviewed in August 2017 and an action plan compiled and completed by the end of 2017.

Risk Assessments for the various areas of the site have been undertaken.

Risk Assessment for major services and events at the Abbey throughout 2017 have been completed, and a standardized stewards briefing has been established.

Planned Preventative Maintenance: The Fire Alarm System received a full service in September 2017 and was in full working order, although some routine unit replacements were identified as required work for 2018.

The fire extinguishers were fully serviced and tested in March 2017 and all were in working order. The verging and caretaking teams undertook weekly fire alarm testing on Friday mornings and have documented their testing of fire alarm call points, emergency lighting and emergency doors. An annual fire drill was undertaken in May 2017.

Ticketing of Major Services: In response to health and safety concerns and the increase in the number of people attending, the decision was taken to ticket three of the most highly attended Christmas services. The aim was to ensure the safety and well-being of all, and to even out the attendance between the services. Therefore the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 23rd and on 24th December, and the Children's Crib Service on the 24th were all ticketed. All other services, including new services such as the Children's Carol Service were not ticketed. In review the system appears to have worked well, attendance was balanced out and overall attendance

was up on the previous year. The support of shop volunteers, sidespeople, churchwardens and stewards was invaluable in making this a success and ensuring the safety of all.

Commentary and Action Points for 2018: Although there was some good use of the reporting forms – it is not thought that all accidents, incidents and especially near-misses are being reported. It is important that they are reported, to help us put preventative actions into effect before a real accident occurs.

The support of the service and events stewards has been wonderful and they have come on board with the new systems and Risk Assessments with good will. We have received many comments about the calm, controlled and welcoming feel of the services and events at the Abbey this year.

There is still some work to be done on staff role Risk Assessments and furthering our collection of Risk Assessment Method Statements, and in developing further our documentation of PPM checks and inspections.

Sally McRobie

Development Report

Funds were raised from a variety of grant making trusts to facilitate the Hamilton Kerr Institute report on the medieval panel paintings.

A fundraising concert, made possible due to generosity of a private sponsor, featuring John Green, Magdalena Loth-Hill and Sam Stadlen was very well received and indeed has set the path for a series of baroque concerts in the Great Hall in 2017, 2018 and hopefully beyond.

A lot of behind the scenes work has been done to aid the planned establishment of Hexham Abbey Heritage Development, an independent charity with objects to support the care, preservation and restoration of the Abbey buildings, whilst supporting heritage, arts, culture and music at the Abbey. Whilst Hexham Abbey Heritage was designed to deliver the 'project', Hexham Abbey Heritage Development is designed to support the Abbey post project.

Sally McRobie

Music Department

A brief report on the music in Hexham Abbey during 2017. The year saw the departure of Marcus Wibberley after six years in the post of Director of Music. Marcus brought an incredible range of high-level cathedral music into the repertoire, and stretched the choirs to new heights. Marcus moved to be Director of Music at St George's Beckenham, London. We had some memorable farewell parties and continue to keep in touch. In September I took over as Director of Music and Keith Dale joined us as Assistant Organist, bringing a breadth of experience and some welcome inspiration. We have around 70-80 singers in our team, and lots of volunteer helpers to whom I am deeply grateful! The Boys choir has continued to evolve with several new recruits, and the same is true of the Senior girls choir and the new Junior girls choir. All of the choirs, including the adult Chamber Choir are continually reshaping in their new roles. The Phelps Organ Concert Series at 6pm over Saturdays in the summer was hugely successful, and Lunchtime Live concerts (Tuesdays) were also popular. The department took part in the Hexham Abbey Festival, which was absolutely tremendous, thanks to the great enthusiasm (and lots of incredibly hard work) from Martin Hughes and Denis McCaldin. The Choirs excelled as always at Christmas, and of particular note were the two services of 9 Lessons and Carols; one sung by Boys and Men, the other by Girls and Men. The warmth of support for the music from the clergy and congregation continues to be remarkably heartening and greatly empowering. Long may it all continue.

Michael Haynes

HAHTL REPORT

2017 was very much a mixed bag in terms of trading for HAHTL. We had strong revenue growth in both the Lettings and Café business, offset by falling retail sales and profitability in the Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop was down around £30,000 on our original budget, this was due to falling sales revenues coupled with lower than anticipated profit margins, plus we made a decision to write off around £10,000 of very slow moving/obsolete stock at year end. In hindsight the budget was very optimistic, and was done before the year end 2016 position was known, meaning forecasted profit margins were way off what was achieved. However, retail in general in Hexham has been struggling hugely over 2017, with many outlets closing due to low demand and we have gone through significant changes during this difficult period. We introduced an EPOS system (Electronic Point of Sale digital system) to help us report and manage the stock, and changed the look and feel of the shop to move to a more defined product range in keeping with the Abbey ethos. Whilst we are still trading through the old/obsolete stock, I am confident that the 'hit' we have taken in 2017 has put us in a very strong position going into 2018.

The Café performed very strongly and extended its offer to include evenings over the summer, which was very encouraging. Staffing costs were a major challenge, with a new Catering Manager unable to effect the desired change in the second half of the year. Food costs rose around 10% year on year and we made belated price rises, perhaps too late in hindsight. However the Café continues to be a real success story for HAHTL and despite challenges is a very healthy business with good profit levels, serving a dedicated local customer base in addition to the tourist market. Lettings really took off following efforts made to market the offer, and revenues doubled from 2016 to nearly match the Gift Shop turnover at around £120,000. With more usage came more costs, in that we have had to spend significant amounts of capital on making the venue fit for purpose, for example we installed acoustic panels to improve sound, and equipped our kitchen to cater for the growing in-house services we offer. Similar to the Gift Shop, I am confident this investment over 2017 has put us in a very good position for 2018 and beyond.

Overall the net profit was down around £8,000 on 2016, but behind this figure has been significant investment in the business, plus a range of one off costs that were unforeseen at the time the original budget was put in place. Having taken on these costs throughout 2017, we are now able to begin to churn significant profits and to fill the funding gap post-HLF support. This could not have been done without the efforts of all staff and volunteers involved, and I would like to say again a big thank you for their contributions through what was a bit of a rollercoaster of a year!

Owen Mills

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1.1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities Act 2011, Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 and the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities.

Main Sources of Funds

The PCC relies entirely on support, gifts and donations received from its congregation, benefactors, visitors and fundraising events for which it is deeply grateful.

Performance for the year

The PCC-only accounts for the year show an overall surplus of £2,227,481 after extraordinary income, comprising:

- a surplus of just under £9,153 on PCC restricted funds;
- a surplus of £2,149,584 on PCC designated funds; and
- a surplus of £17,118 on the PCC's general unrestricted fund

The extraordinary income totals £2,227,481 and include £2,182,735 net assets transferred from HAH on 31 December 2017, and a £40,692 debtor assigned from Hexham Abbey Gift Shop Ltd to the PCC. Without the extraordinary income, the PCC would have made a deficit in the year of £51,627.

The PCC's consolidated accounts incorporating the accounts of HAH and HAHTL show a deficit for the year of £148,542. This takes account of a deficit on heritage restricted funds for the year of just under £141,662 (before extraordinary expenditure), the main components of which were capital and operational expenditure (£138,500 plus £117,351 depreciation charge), offset by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (£89,340), the net profit on trading activities by HAHTL (£70,830) and grants, donations and other income (£5,300). In the group accounts, designated funds stand at £3,172,876, which includes £2,645,313 in fixed assets.

At the end of the year the PCC's general unrestricted fund stood at just under £113,500.

Reserves and Investment Policies

The PCC does not intend to build up large reserves. However, it faces particular uncertainties at present, so to minimise the risk of being unable to meet all its financial obligations as they fall due, including full payment of the diocesan parish share, it aims to hold sufficient liquid general fund resources to meet one year's operating costs. Cash required for immediate use is held in current accounts with a main clearing bank. Cash not required for immediate use is held in interest-bearing accounts with either a main clearing bank or an equivalent institution. The PCC has taken action to reduce its exposure to risk so that deposits are guaranteed under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

The PCC's ethical investment policy guides all investment decisions.

My thanks to Rachel Ogilvie, Finance Officer, and Ken Newitt, HAH Treasurer, for their support throughout the year.

Peter Cockerill (Treasurer)

A full set of accounts is available for inspection.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hexham Abbey

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	Note	Heritage restricted funds 2017 £	PCC restricted funds 2017 £	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Income from:						
Donations and Legacies	2	1,809	44,681	257,169	303,659	327,617
Trading Activities	3	530,249	1,981	21,923	554,153	479,322
Investments	4	-	-	4,145	4,145	4,396
Charitable activities	5	92,879	-	5,214	98,093	92,530
Other Income	6	-	2,130	20,763	22,893	23,373
Total		624,937	48,792	309,214	982,943	927,238
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3	458,890	975	6,047	465,912	361,153
Charitable activities	7	307,709	61,694	336,702	706,105	635,684
Other Expenditure	11	-	160	-	160	4,474
		766,599	62,829	342,749	1,172,177	1,001,311
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/losses on revaluations of investment assets		-	-	-	-	17,713
Net income/(expenditure)		(141,662)	(14,037)	(33,535)	(189,234)	(56,360)
Extraordinary items	12	-	-	40,692	40,692	-
Transfers between funds		(2,182,735)	23,190	2,159,545	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,324,397)	9,153	2,166,702	(148,542)	(56,360)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		2,324,397	236,537	1,119,670	3,680,604	3,736,964
Total funds carried forward		-	245,690	3,286,372	3,532,062	3,680,604

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hexham Abbey

PCC Only Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

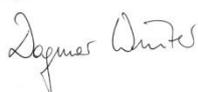
	Note	Restricted funds 2017 £	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies	2	44,681	257,169	301,850	325,320
Trading Activities	3	1,981	21,923	23,904	36,302
Investments	4	-	4,145	4,145	4,386
Charitable activities	5	-	5,214	5,214	7,052
Other Income	6	2,130	20,763	22,893	30,375
Total		<u>48,792</u>	<u>309,214</u>	<u>358,006</u>	<u>403,435</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	975	6,047	7,022	3,577
Charitable activities	7	61,694	340,757	402,451	356,624
Other Expenditure	11	160	-	160	4,475
		<u>62,829</u>	<u>346,804</u>	<u>409,633</u>	<u>364,676</u>
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Gains/losses on revaluations of investment assets		-	-	-	17,713
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(14,037)</u>	<u>(37,590)</u>	<u>(51,627)</u>	<u>56,472</u>
Extraordinary items	12	23,190	2,204,291	2,227,481	-
Net movement in funds		<u>9,153</u>	<u>2,166,701</u>	<u>2,175,854</u>	<u>56,472</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		236,539	1,119,671	1,356,210	1,299,738
Total funds carried forward		<u>245,692</u>	<u>3,286,372</u>	<u>3,532,064</u>	<u>1,356,210</u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hexham Abbey

Consolidated Balance Sheet
for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	1,066,815	1,181,003
Heritage assets	15	1,619,140	1,619,736
Investments	16	-	-
		<u>2,685,955</u>	<u>2,800,739</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		52,880	74,498
Debtors	17	80,319	154,488
Cash at bank and in hand		787,328	751,030
		<u>920,527</u>	<u>980,016</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(74,420)</u>	<u>(59,459)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>846,107</u>	<u>920,557</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>3,532,062</u>	<u>3,721,296</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	-	(40,692)
NET ASSETS		<u>3,532,062</u>	<u>3,680,604</u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Heritage restricted assets	20	-	2,324,397
PCC restricted funds	20	245,690	236,539
Unrestricted funds	20	3,286,372	1,119,668
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>3,532,062</u>	<u>3,680,604</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Members on 20 March 2018 and signed on their behalf, by:



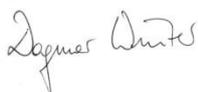
The Revd Canon Dr Dagmar Winter

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hexham Abbey

PCC Only Balance Sheet
for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	Note	£	2017 £	£	2016 £
NON CURRENT ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14		1,066,816		404,183
Heritage assets	15		1,619,140		121,433
Investments	16		1		-
			<u>2,685,957</u>		<u>525,616</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	17	159,286		175,101	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>705,798</u>		<u>668,898</u>	
		865,084		843,999	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(18,977)</u>		<u>(13,405)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			846,107		830,594
NET ASSETS			<u>3,532,064</u>		<u>1,356,210</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
PCC restricted funds	20		245,692		236,539
Unrestricted funds	20		3,286,372		1,119,671
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>3,532,064</u>		<u>1,356,210</u>

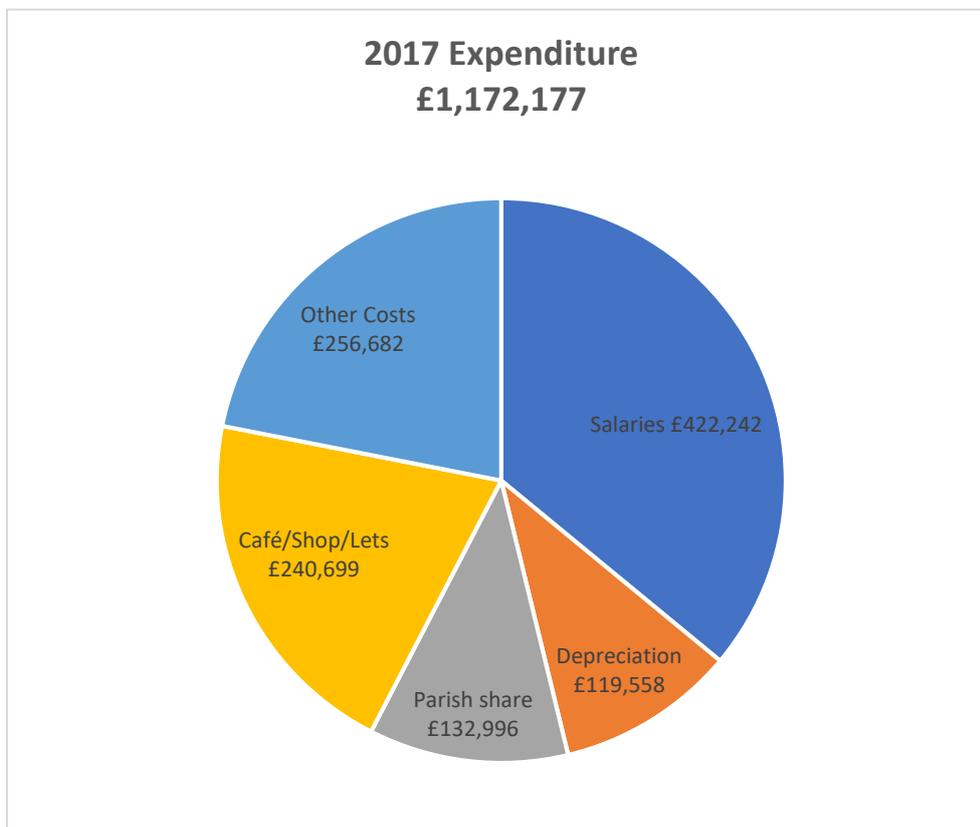
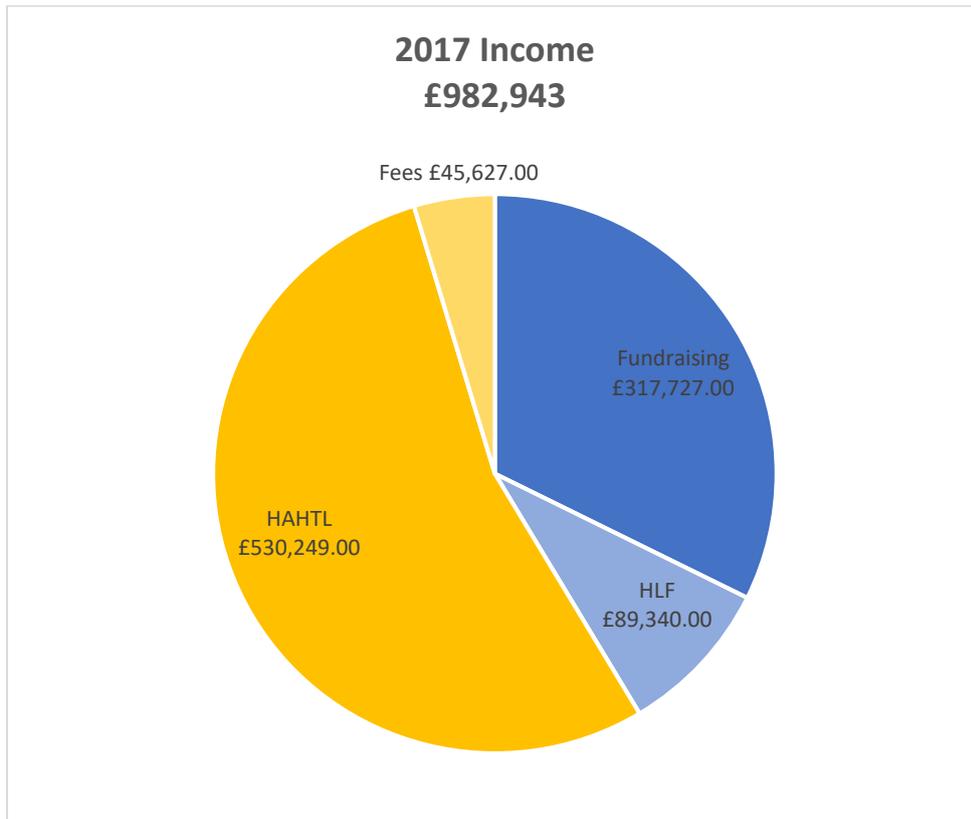
The financial statements were approved by the Members on 20 March 2018 and signed on their behalf, by:



The Revd Canon Dr Dagmar Winter

The notes on pages 16 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Hexham Abbey Consolidated Accounts

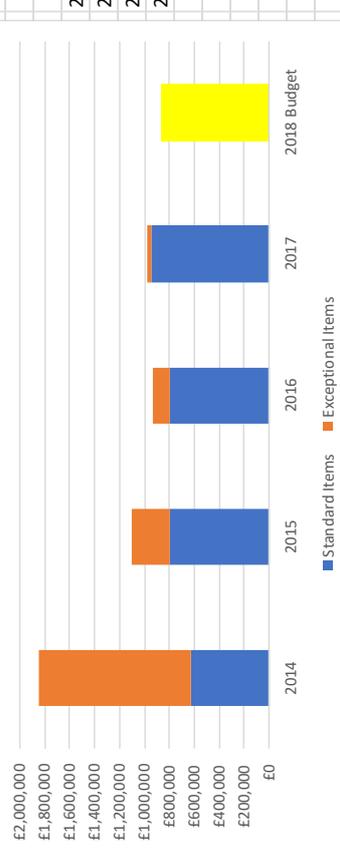


PCC Consolidated Accounts

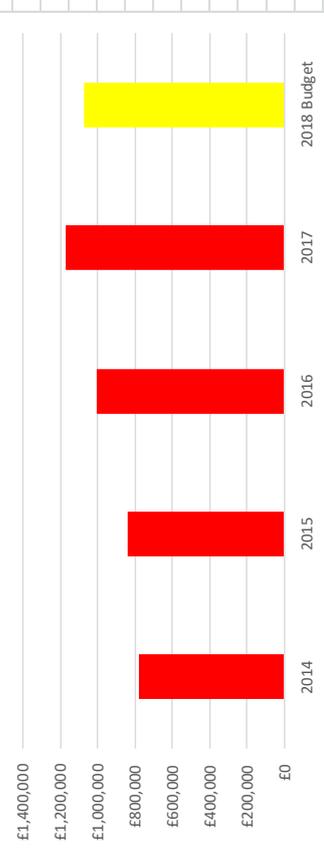
Per note 20 Analysis of Net assets Between Funds

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 Budget
Income	£1,845,590	£1,104,957	£927,238	£982,943	£859,550
Costs	£775,830	£837,173	£1,001,311	£1,172,177	£1,075,656
Surplus/shortfalls	£1,069,760	£267,784	-£74,073	-£189,234	-£216,106
Reserves	£301,850	£561,890	£594,056	£600,417	£504,886
Income	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 Budget
Standard items	£632,046	£799,772	£792,738	£942,251	£859,550
Exceptional items	£1,213,544	£305,185	£134,500	£40,692	

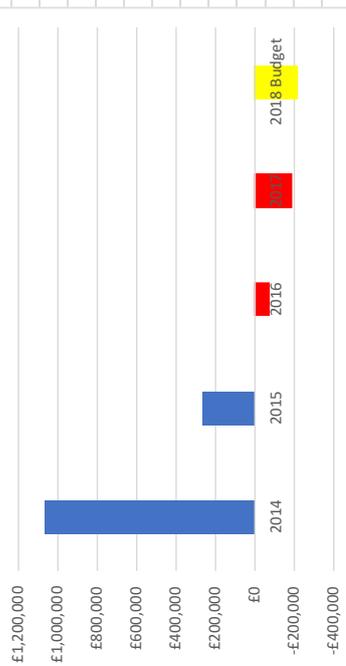
Income



Costs

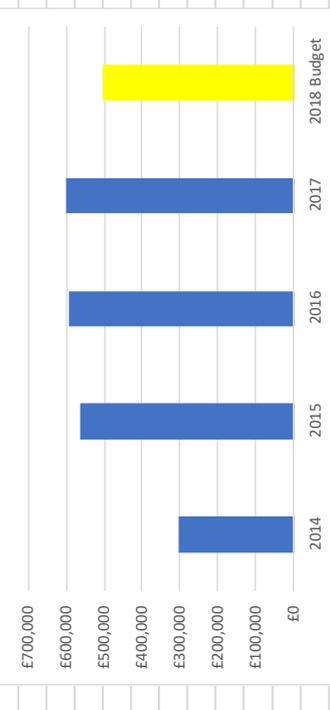


Surplus/Loss



2014 Income includes £1,213,544 Heritage Lottery. £632,046 excluding Lottery
 2015 Income includes £305,185 donations to HA Heritage. £799,772 excluding Heritage donations
 2016 Income includes £50k legacy and £84.5k Heritage lottery. £792.5k excluding Heritage and legacy
 2017 Transfer of HAGSL debt £40,692

Reserves



APPENDIX 1

BRIEF EXTRACT from the Summative Evaluation Report 2017 The Hexham Abbey Project

- revealing the past, enhancing the present, enriching the future.



Prepared by Toni Bush and Catriona A. Mulligan Associates October 2017
Photographs: Restoration of the Monastic Workshop and The Big Story Exhibition

Executive Summary

Hexham Abbey - the Priory & Parish Church of St Andrew at Hexham - has a complex, multi-layered history stretching back over 1300 years. The Hexham Abbey Project, to restore the former Priory Buildings as a visitor and community centre, and the associated conservation management, is a good example of breathing new life into old buildings. The project has peeled back the layers of history of the buildings, lost following the dissolution of the Abbey by Henry VIII and subsequently developed by private owners; it has returned these buildings once again to the ownership of the Abbey, rejuvenated them and made them accessible to the public.

The creation of a visitor centre with a high quality permanent exhibition, a welcoming café, offices, community rooms, function areas, and the development of a Conservation and Activity Plan was made possible by a £1.8m Heritage Lottery grant. Together with fundraising by the Abbey community and additional charitable donations and grants, the total project cost was £3.2m and was brought to fruition by Abbey staff along with extensive volunteer time and expertise.

It has been an exceptional time for Hexham Abbey, punctuated by steep learning curves. The vision was challenging and the journey has been transformational. The way trustees, staff and volunteers have worked together, the passion they feel for the Abbey and their enthusiasm to do yet more is remarkable. Importantly, they have not veered away from taking difficult decisions. Key volunteers and staff members have driven the project and many more have provided support and advice, enabling the Abbey to achieve its goals. All involved have gained new skills and made an active contribution to the way the organisation has developed.

This immense project has delivered a long-lasting legacy for the Abbey and the wider community. The opportunities for the Abbey to build on its success are immense. Continuing quantifiable progress will be another measure of this success in years to come, both in terms of impact on the town and in continuing to conserve and share heritage.

There are now stories to tell that have emerged about the Abbey and its former monastic buildings. The Abbey community is now aware of a richer tapestry than anyone could have foreseen at the germination of the project, and one that could produce a considerable and lasting cultural legacy for twenty-first century Hexham.

All this is perhaps best summed up by a quote from an Abbey volunteer in December 2015:

'Let us celebrate what we have achieved. Hexham Abbey is truly a living, vibrant place. The buildings and the environment are great; the atmosphere is powerful; the sense of pride is immense. This is our contribution to the 21st century, 2000 - 2015, and we are just at the beginning of our journey; what a contribution to the life of the Abbey in the 21st century.'



Some Quotes

VISITORS

'Everyone helpful and lots of information & displays. Well done.'

'The volunteers were friendly and helpful'

'I have no hesitation in recommending this wonderful church to others.'

VOLUNTEERS

'I feel more proud and aware, don't take it for granted. I have talked about the Abbey more to others'

'I was encouraged by a friend to volunteer and I love the history and the company.'

'I enjoy talking to visitors and I have now learnt much about the history of the Abbey and town.'

'The most rewarding aspects of volunteering are meeting other people, being part of a team, seeing events being successful and well-supported. And feeling that the role you have played has contributed to the financial security of the Abbey.'

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK from Talking Matters, a mental health service offering weekly drop-in, well-being sessions in the Prior's Hall, includes: *'We are able to provide a safe space to reduce social isolation, develop confidence and provide access support for mental health services'*
'We chose to use these rooms because of the community values and ethos'
'The facilities are brilliant. We have been so impressed with both the service from staff and the facilities'

Conclusions

The evidence shows that Hexham Abbey has been effective in reaching its goals. The staff and volunteers have been committed to functioning as a learning organisation, continuously improving upon all aspects of their activity. Very little of this activity could have been achieved without HLF funding and the matched funding raised by the Abbey.

The delivery of a challenging programme of activity over the life-time of the project, has changed the Abbey immeasurably. This is seen not only in the fabric of the new buildings acquired, and the reach of the new activities that has been made possible, but equally profoundly, the change within the Abbey community itself – the staff, trustees and volunteers who have risen to the many challenges and embraced new ways of doing things.

Inevitably, change management has not been an easy or a smooth journey for the Abbey, but it has been tackled with enthusiasm, determination and professionalism by staff, trustees, and volunteers. The result is a credit to them. The on-going challenge will be to retain this learning and build on the experience into the future to ensure continuing financial viability, and community engagement.

As well as delivering on the objectives of the project, and securing a firm financial basis going forward, there are many more opportunities that could be taken to tell further stories of the Abbey and the former monastic buildings, and so further celebrate the learning that has emerged. This is a richer tapestry than anyone could have foreseen at the germination of the project, and one that could produce an even more considerable and lasting cultural legacy for twenty-first century Hexham.

It is not only the Abbey but also the town that has been significantly enhanced by this project. With its new modifications, the Abbey is well placed to maximise its mission and make a very considerable contribution to the historic town of Hexham and its appeal to visitors and the local community in the centuries to come.