

HEXHAM ABBEY FIFTH PCC MEETING 2009-2010	<p>We have a vision of a world where God's love is enjoyed, celebrated and shared.</p> <p>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</p>
Date: 19 January 2009	
Time: 1930	
Venue: The Monastic Workshop	

Present:

Canon G B Usher
Rev J Anderson
Mr J Arkless
Mr S Batey
Mr P Binks

Mr K Box
Rev A Currie
Mr R Dallison
Miss N Horne
Mrs A Jeffries

Mrs F Kelsey
Mrs D Kilby (Chair)
Mr J B Jonas
Mr D Ratcliff (Secretary)
Mr R Thornton

In attendance:

Mrs J Musto
Mr P Standfield and Mrs F Standfield (Hexham Abbey Project Managers)

09.05.01 **Apologies for absence**

Ms G Alexander
Mrs F Finnon
Ben Rowarth

Mr J Robinson
Dr M Howell
Mr E Lovell

Lucy Milner
Mrs R Ogilvie
Mr A Sinclair

DR

09.05.02 **Hexham Abbey Project**

The Council received a presentation of a report of progress from the Project Managers including:

- that the Conservation Management Plan will be furthered by the Property Committee in February
- that the new £3.7m project which focuses on Carnaby Building has been discussed with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)
- Ivor Crowther, Regional Director, (HLF) recommends that the project is submitted to the June HLF Trustees' meeting, that there is a review of the business model to consider removing the charging policy, and that partnerships are developed with other organisations (eg Woodhorn).
- confirmation of £20,000 grant from ONE
- that the Project's Vision, divided into 12 key aims will drive the draft Activity Plan

PS/FS

Peter Standfield gave a vision of the current thinking on the development of the project's plan and interpretation spaces, noting especially:

- the potential of the different rooms for interpretation
- the cloister path and glass screen had been withdrawn from scheme
- that the whole scheme attempts to provide similar range of experiences but in significantly less space
- there is no shop extension.

He stressed the importance of the Activity Plan, a programme of activities

which bring the public in to experience, participate and be involved with the heritage and the activities which maintain the heritage of the Abbey.

- 09.05.03 **Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 17 November**
The Council agreed that this was a true record of the meeting. DR
- 09.05.04 **Matters arising from these minutes**
It was noted that the Standing Committee meeting of 5 January had been cancelled due to bad weather.
- 09.05.04.01 **Christmas Fair**
Jane Musto reported that the profit from the Fair was in the region of £5000, comparable to other years. 5 external stalls had been included among the many Abbey-led events. There had been problems with electricity. It was felt that the Hexham Christmas Fair numbers were up but the Abbey Fair numbers slightly down. DR
- 09.05.04.02 **St Mary's Lowgate**
John Robinson had held an introductory meeting with the neighbouring landowners and has arranged to contact them again in February. A meeting is also planned with Peter Coombe of Land Factor. JR
- 09.05.04.03 **Stewardship Campaign**
James Arkless reported on two more meetings of the Steering Group, at which the text of the brochure was agreed and the progress of the film, nearing readiness, was noted. Logistic preparations will now take place, prior to the launch on 28 February. JA
- 09.05.05 **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

It was noted that a one-year gas contract had been signed with Shell Gas Direct (on the advice of Mark Frazer costing £120). It was estimated that this should save the PCC £2000 on the best renewal rate found by Rachel Ogilvie.
It was reported that the Auditors from Rycroft Glenton will be on site in the coming week.
A break-even year is forecast. Recent weather has affected attendances and visitors, and thus income.
- 09.05.06 **Honorary Secretary's Report**
 - Information had been received from Deaf Church, Northumberland.
 - Youth activity authorisations for the Bellringers and Friday Zone were agreed.DR
- 09.05.07 **Sunday Sidesmen**
It was noted that there had recently been an increase in patchy attendance of sidesmen. Paul Binks, the Churchwarden with responsibility for sidesmen, felt that this was not an issue of numbers of sidesmen. He will write to all with a reminder of commitment, and a letter of thanks. He will also make all sidesmen the offer to stand down if they wish. In addition, consideration will be given to organising a thank-you service event. PB
- 09.05.08 **Clergy items**
The Rector reported:
 - that an event for those interested in helping with the liturgy on a Sunday had been successful and he had recruited new people.
 - that Judy Lloyd had requested to host a BBC Choral Ambition Project event in

2011, looking at Northern Saints, sponsoring writing and performing music, and that this had been agreed by Standing Committee.

- that a new white altar frontal had been donated, and is likely that the design will be developed and worked by Maureen Price and Embroidery Guild. A faculty would be required.
- that the Parish and Churches Together in Hexham would engage in a study of Luke in Lent, following the course written by Bishop Tom Wright. 50 copies of book had been ordered. House Groups, daily Morning Prayer and a sermon series with visiting preachers would reflect this theme.
- that the Riding Lights Theatre Company would be presenting their highly acclaimed performance, 'The Narrow Road' on 16 March. The three local deaneries are combining for this event involving local musicians and people leading the liturgy. Tickets will be available soon.

09.05.09 **Parish Vision**

The Council considered the draft Vision Statement, in order to make amendments and approve it for use by the Stewardship Group.

The Rector posed two questions, to which the Council, meeting in groups, responded as follows:

- ***Is what's written a fair summary of our action for the next three years, accepting that the plan deals with new areas?***
 - The key need to sustain and extend the role of the Education Officer
 - Extending the adult programme within and beyond house groups
 - Do Lent groups give a new opportunity for "short-term" adult-learning possibilities?
 - There was good and effective pastoral care, but difficulties of overcoming failed past experiences of lay involvement in some individual cases
 - Outreach to less engaged areas
 - The text is the right challenge, but how is it worked out in practice?
 - Good maintenance has meant that we have less fabric need this year
- ***What resources does delivery of the plan require?***
 - Stability of Education officer funding
 - Speakers and leaders of house groups need support, and there should be occasional training courses
 - Coordinator of needs for visits (through planned giving campaign)
 - Build on the web of connections with community organisations, and network more with others outside our immediate sphere
 - More people to be involved in furthering all parish initiatives
 - More space to make the Abbey community aware of the charitable/mission causes that we support
 - Use of the Restoration Fund to support heritage changes
 - Energy audit to investigate our use of fossil fuels, including the use of free support and grants wherever possible
 - Fundraising to support and maximise major grants which may be secured

It was agreed that existing sub committees take on each of four main activity targets, with the addition of a new Education and Adult Learning Committee to develop that activity target.

It was felt that, whilst the Vision Statement addressed the core issues of the parish that, through the next PCC agenda, a review of the detailed issues discussed at the Away Day would be beneficial.

- 09.05.10 **Churches Together in Hexham Report**
Thanks were expressed to Pam Nobbs for her report. DR
- 09.05.11 **Deanery Synod Report**
Thanks were expressed to Hedley Everett for his report. It was noted that
- David Ratcliff had been nominated to serve on Bishop's Council. An election is possible.
 - Discussion of the initiative aimed at developing Deaneries' work would be placed on the next agenda. HE
GBU
 - It was agreed that a sum of £500 be given to support the parish of St Augustine's Alston, who had urgent building needs. The Council asked that anyone able to offer support in kind make their offer known.
- 09.05.12 **Committee Reports**
- 09.05.12.01 **Property Committee** RT
Richard Thornton provided updates on issues including:
- the Anglo Saxon Chalice display, which was now fully installed. The lights are to be modified, confirmations of correctness secured and then grant funding will arrive
 - New Organ CCTV screen is to be located above the console. A faculty is to be sought. It was noted that the current equipment is starting to fail.
 - Dermot Roddy, Professor of Renewable Energy at the University of Newcastle, has agreed to allow an energy audit as a student project in the Abbey's initiative to reduce its carbon footprint.
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- 09.05.12.02 **Social Committee**
- Nora Horne reported that the recording of the Advent service, which had been circulated to housebound parishioners, had been well received and recordings of more services were planned. NH
 - A concert by Gareth Davies Jones and a Quiz Night were being proposed.
- 09.05.12.03 **Aid and Global Issues Committee**
- Financial support for Christian Aid's relief work in Haiti was proposed by Keith Box. A donation of £500 was agreed.
 - The Council noted the reallocation of collection areas for Christian Aid and that the AGIC budget had been used for this year for four main and three minor projects. KB
- 09.05.12.04 **Being Safe Committee**
Nothing to report. AJ
- 09.05.13 **Electoral Roll Officer's Report**
No changes to report. NH
- 09.05.14 **Any other business**
The Council noted that Wednesday Club were, on 13 February, holding a Coffee Morning.
- 09.05.15 **Date and Time of next meeting:**
1930 on Tuesday 23 March 2010 (change from original date) in the Monastic Workshop.