

HEXHAM ABBEY SIXTH PCC MEETING 2009-2010	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: 23 March 2009	
Time: 1930	
Venue: The Monastic Workshop	

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2010

Present:

Canon G B Usher	Rev A Currie	Mrs D Kilby (Chair)
Ms G Alexander	Mr R Dallison	Mr J B Jonas
Mr J Arkless	Mrs F Finnon	Mr D Ratcliff (Secretary)
Mr S Batey	Miss N Horne	Mr J Robinson
Mr P Binks	Dr M Howell	Mr R Thornton
Mr K Box	Mrs F Kelsey	

In attendance:

Mrs R Ogilvie
Mr P Standfield (Hexham Abbey Project Manager)

Prayers The Council said The Litany

Action

09.06.01 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from:

Ben Rowarth	Rev J Anderson	Lucy Milner
Mrs A Jeffries	Mr E Lovell	Mr H Everett
Mrs J Musto	Mr A Sinclair	

09.06.02 **Minutes of the last PCC Meeting** (19 January) and the Standing Committee meetings held on 2 February and 2 March were agreed and signed by the Chair.

DR

09.06.03 **Matters arising from these meetings**

09.06.03.01 **Sunday Sidesmen**

A letter had been sent with the rota and attendance had improved.

09.06.03.02 **St Mary's Lowgate**

John Robinson updated the PCC about his meeting with the neighbouring landowners and reported other aspects that he had been investigating.

JR

09.06.03.03 **Stewardship Campaign**

James Arkless reported that the launch had been favourably received, with some learning points still to be reviewed. At the time of the meeting about 150 responses (out of 300 letters sent) had been received with an increased

JArk

annual giving implication of about £17,000, plus the addition of Gift Aid. A follow up letter was planned for those who had not responded.

09.06.03.04 **Riding Lights Theatre Company - 'The Narrow Road'**

David Ratcliff and Keith Box reported on the excellent recent performance, attended by members of three local deaneries.

09.06.03.05 **Bishop's Council**

David Ratcliff reported briefly on the recent meeting, mentioning the low level of planned giving within Newcastle Diocese compared to other dioceses.

09.06.03.06 **Hexham Abbey Project**

Peter Standfield reported on developments with the Hexham Abbey project, with encouraging news from HLF (from whom a grant of about £1.5m is sought) but less encouraging from One NorthEast.

09.06.04 **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Rachel Ogilvie explained the recently circulated budget update, and drew attention to an error - Property Committee Budget should read £12,000 (not £1,200 as printed). The Abbey was on target with its budget forecasting and the situation should improve with the pledges made through the stewardship campaign.

The Rector reported that Andrew Sinclair has asked to be freed up from his Honorary Treasurer role. The Council expressed its thanks and good wishes to Andrew. A replacement is being sought.

GBU

09.06.05 **Annual Report and Accounts**

John Robinson introduced the previously circulated Annual Report from Ryecroft Glenton, Auditors. He drew attention to:

- The fact that the PCC report for 2009 included demonstrating conformity to the public benefit issue
- The "clean" auditor's report
- The various notes on the accounts made by the auditor
- The details of incoming funds and how they were apportioned to particular purposes

The Council considered the Management Letter and the Letter of Representation. The Council, acting as Trustees, confirmed that they had all considered their responsibilities and had no matters that should be brought to the attention of the Charity Commission and/or the auditors.

It was proposed by John Robinson and seconded by Richard Thornton

IT WAS AGREED unanimously that the PCC accept and approve the Annual Report and Accounts 2009, and the Management Letter and Letter of Representation in their entirety.

Three tenders had been received for the position of Auditor, to be approved at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The Rector emphasised that the criteria needed to make this decision were value for money, the quality of the proposed work, and the extent to which the Parish feels comfortable with the firm.

It was proposed by JB Jonas and seconded by John Robinson and

IT WAS AGREED unanimously that the PCC recommend to the APCM the re-appointment of Ryecroft Glenton as Auditors for the coming year.

Thanks were expressed by the Council to Rachel Ogilvie for her dedication and accuracy in

respect of the parish finances.

09.06.06 **Honorary Secretary's Report**

The parish had received a very warm letter of thanks for the grant made to St Augustine's Alston in their hour of need.

09.06.07 **Parish Governance Structure**

The Council noted the document (previously circulated) describing the governance arrangements for the parish as they now stand and as proposed for the future. The Rector explained that four of the proposed sub committees will manage the various themes of the Parish Development Plan. After a period of consultation with sub-committees the structure will come back for final resolution by PCC in May. Peter Standfield outlined the "heritage" aspects of the plan. There was some anxiety expressed around the impact of the proposed heritage issues on revenue which currently forms part of parish income. The Council also asked for further clarification of some issues surrounding relationship of Hexham Abbey Heritage to the PCC.

PS
GBU

09.06.08 **Clergy items**

- The Rector introduced the list of existing Eucharistic Ministers and asked that the PCC further recommend to the Bishop the inclusion of Gill Alexander, Julia Myles and Peter Dodgson. This extended list was agreed.
- The Rector reported a spate of recent thefts from the Abbey and the actions taken to prevent future thefts.
- The Rector introduced the proposed initiative with Hexham Abbey Festival to purchase staging. Hexham Abbey Festival had secured funding of about £4,000, and the PCC had recently received a pledge from an anonymous donor of £3,000 plus gift aid. The proposed staging would cost approximately £9000, leaving a shortfall of about £1150. On the basis that the Abbey would pay the balance, it was agreed to proceed with the purchase providing, as had been intimated by the HAF Board, the ownership would remain with the Abbey. Under this arrangement all users (with the exception of HAF) would be charged for use of the staging. The Abbey would store and insure the staging in the North Transept. It was agreed that David Ratcliff would liaise with David Huntington (HAF) and Mick Nobbs regarding the final details.

GBU

DR

09.06.09 **Parish away day items**

Following the consideration by the Standing Committee of issues from the PCC/Staff Away day which had not been referenced in the Development Plan, the PCC agreed to set up a Worship Task Group to meet, led by James Arkless, to discuss the issues (see February SC Minutes) and report back on these issues in May. It was also agreed that the suggestion of a Zone Month would be considered by the Social Committee.

J Ark

09.06.10 **Churches Together in Hexham Report**

No Report

09.06.11 **Deanery Synod Report**

JB Jonas reported from the last Deanery Synod that:

- Margery Wylie had stood down as Secretary, and Evelyn Braid had taken over
- Canon Carol Wolstenholme had given a General Synod Report
- Consideration was being given to ways which might improve the standing of Newcastle Cathedral as the centre of the Diocese, including proposed redevelopments and improvements.
- Lindisfarne Training Partnership had outlined their work in the Diocese and that this had a significant deanery implication, with the potential for a project to train

- lay people in the leading of services of the Word.
- The *Developing Deaneries* initiative had identified how six major topics would be spread over 2 years of the Deanery's work
- The *Paving the Way* DVD had been shown to the Synod

09.06.12 **Committee Reports**

09.06.12.01 **Property Committee**

RT

Richard Thornton reported that more modifications to the light for the display cabinet were needed and that the promised grant had been received.

The initiative aiming to reduce the Abbey's Carbon Footprint had moved forward with the involvement of a research student, from Newcastle University, who would be proposing options for consideration.

Richard Thornton introduced two resolutions from the Property Committee:

It was proposed by Richard Thornton and seconded by Roy Dallison and
IT WAS AGREED unanimously to apply for a faculty to enable the Abbey to install automatic power-operated door opening systems to the swing doors in the Slype, so that those in wheelchairs or using mobility scooters can gain access to the Abbey without help

DR

It was proposed by Paul Binks and seconded by Fiona Finnon and
IT WAS AGREED unanimously to apply for a faculty to enable the Abbey to replace the CCTV equipment installed in the Abbey organ loft and replace and increase the number of associated cameras installed in the Abbey so that the Organist can clearly and reliably see the conductor, choir and clergy at all times.

09.06.12.02 **Social Committee**

Nora reported the recent well-attended Big Quiz .

09.06.12.03 **Aid and Global Issues Committee**

Keith reported the recent meeting (2 March) which had planned our response to Christian Aid Week, led in Hexham by Frank Riley. Details will be advertised in the Abbey over the weekend of 17-18 April

09.06.12.04 **Being Safe Committee**

There had been no meeting and David Ratcliff was asked to check the date with John Mitchell. One item to be resolved is that of the Responsible Person in relation to the Fire regulations.

09.06.14 **Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

10 new names had been added to the Electoral Roll.

Sally Dodgson
Peter Dodgson
Stephen Glover

Helen Guy
Antonia McNamara
Dawn Scanlan

Lydia Sinclair
Ben Rowarth
Peter Anderson
Shirley Fogaraty

With 10 names also removed following moves and deaths the roll remained at 329.

09.06.15 **Any other business**

The Rector reported that, as part of planning by the Lord Lieutenant for HM The Queen's

Diamond Jubilee, we had been asked if we would like to be considered for a visit by Her Majesty. The PCC agreed to offer Hexham Abbey as a venue as part of a visit to the County.

At the APCM the term of office of the following PCC members would terminate – Gill Alexander (Churchwarden for the last five years), Deborah Kilby (Lay Chair), James Arkless, and Stan Batey (a very long-serving member). The Rector expressed thanks to all for the variety of talents they brought to the Council.

09.06.16 **Date and Time of next meeting:**

APCM: 1045 Sunday 18 April

PCC: 1930 Tuesday 18 May