

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting
of Local Preachers, Leaders of
Worship and Readers**

**9 July 2026 at 7.30pm
Via Zoom**

- 1. WELCOME:** Rev Beard opened the meeting.
- 2. IN ATTENDANCE:** Rev Marie Beard (in the chair), Tom Dodds, Jacqui Cameron, Bob McAlpin, Sylvia Waters, Rev. Calverey, Robin Charlton, Rev Holland, Sheila Holland, Sandra Martin, Elaine Goy, Ian Warburton, Brian Japes,
- 3. APOLOGIES:** Rev Tony Buglass, Rev Roberta Ritson, Ruth Johnson, Margery Burgess, Daryl Ralston, Norman Fullard, Glen Smith.
- 4. DEVOTIONS:** Tom Dodds: *Why do we need to worship God? H&P31.*
- 5. PASTORAL MATTERS:**
 - a. New Local Preacher: Jess Merryfield-Surman still 'in transition'
 - b. Robin Charlton has his hip operation on 29 July
- 6. MINUTES** of the meeting held on 23 April 2026, previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.
- 7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** not otherwise on the Agenda: None
- 8. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS** not otherwise on the Agenda:
 - a. Chrestos/Availability/Plan Making: The deadline for Availability has passed but it's still 'live' on Chrestos!
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
- 10. PREPARATION FOR SERVICE:**
 - a. Seeking a Note to Preach: None. Please remember to encourage others to come forward to explore their calling to preach.
 - b. Preachers On Note: None.
 - c. Progress of Preachers On Trial:
 - i. Daryl Ralston: Jacqui Cameron is tutoring and Ruth Johnson is the mentor. Daryl continues to make progress, having to complete the Course by 18 January 2029. Another module completed, coursework continues.
 - ii. Tom heard Daryl on 10 May at Hexham Trinity. The meeting agreed to Daryl continuing On Trial.
 - d. Arrangements for preachers to be heard and a report prepared:
 - i. Daryl Ralston: 19 July at Prudhoe: Bob McAlpin will listen and report back.
 - ii. Jess: Arrangements will be made to hear Jess during the forthcoming quarter.
 - iii. Fiona recommended that we try the Methodist Church in South Africa Summary Form: you can find a link to the form [here](#).
- 11. NEWS FROM CHURCHES:**
 - a. Fourstones will close on 12 July 3pm. Saturday an informal drop-in.
 - b. Prudhoe: 30 years of the Extension; 160 years of the church this December. Mad Hatters Tea Party 6 Sept.
 - c. Folk Worship on the last Sun in September at Allendale.
 - d. 26 July at Keenley: outdoor service.

12. DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING:

- a. June 2026: Bible Month: seemed to be enjoyed.
- b. "12 Baskets" material available in each church for LAs. There will be Bible Month materials for LAs next year.

13. FUTURE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- a. None.

14. PEER REVIEW: Reminder. These happen on an 'ad hoc' basis, but we're always pleased to hear about them at this meeting.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS as notified at 7 above: None.

16. FUTURE MEETINGS: (all at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated, *place, volunteer for devotions*)

- **Thursday 1st October 2026** at Acomb ('outing'): *Devotions: Communion and Reaffirmation: Jacqui will take minutes.*
- **Thursday 14 January 2027 on Zoom.** *Devotions:*
- **Thursday 15 April 2027** at 7.30pm at Hexham Trinity. *Devotions:*
- **Thursday 8 July 2027 - on Zoom:** *Devotions:*

17. The meeting closed with The Grace at 8.41pm.