

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

**1 October 2026 at 7.30pm
at The Chapel at Acomb**

1. **WELCOME:** Rev Beard opened the meeting.
2. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Rev Marie Beard (in the chair), Jacqui Cameron, Brian Japes, Ruth Johnson, Sheila Holland, Rev Michael Holland, Rev Tony Buglass, Bob Mc Alpin, Norman Fullard, Roger Anthony, Robin Charlton, Elaine Goy, Rev Roberta Ritson.
3. **APOLOGIES:** Tom Dodds, Vicky Herron, Christine Thompson, Brian Elstob, Sandra Martin, Ian Warburton, Jessica Merryfield-Surman, Rev Fiona Calverey, Daryl Ralston
4. **PASTORAL MATTERS:**
 - a. Brenda Mearns passed away on 26 July. TD sent a card of condolence to her family on behalf of this meeting. *TD to record on the Quarterly Return*
 - b. Rev Stephen Talbot has had to step away from preaching for a variety of issues for the foreseeable future.
 - c. Daryl Ralston's mum has had a seizure and we are asked to keep her and all Daryl's family in our prayers.
5. **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 9 July 2026, previously circulated, were accepted as a true record. Although Brian said that because of technical issues he was not present at the whole meeting.
6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** not otherwise on the Agenda: None
7. **NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS** not otherwise on the Agenda:
 - a. Chrestos/Availability/Plan Making: Chrestos is not set up for the next quarter but availability is needed by Marie asap for Dec -Feb 27. Please also include what is required over the festive period and what you are available for.
 - b. Roberta intimated that there were 2 places available for The Songs of Praise at The Glass House on Tuesday with the people from North Tyne. These were readily snapped up.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
9. **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, and has almost completed the first half of his training.
 - ii. Bob McAlpin heard Daryl on 19 July at Prudhoe. The meeting agreed to Daryl continuing OnTrial.
 - iii. Jessica Merryfield-Surman: Jacqui awaiting Jess's transfer which is in hand. *TD to record Jess' 'transfer in' on the Quarterly Return.*
 - d. Arrangements for preachers to be heard and a report prepared:
 - i. No arrangements were made.

10. NEWS FROM CHURCHES:

A folk service was held at Allendale. It went very well with 70 people from the community attending.

Brian intimated that although the numbers for Sunday Morning service were very low at Wylam there were lots of activities during the week that were well attended as well as very well attended Sunday afternoon services held by Christians in Wylam.

11.

- a. We were all reminded to keep an eye on our own DBS and Safeguarding training and to seek to update these when necessary.

12. DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING:

- a.

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: None.

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

- **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:*
- *Thursday 7 October 2027 at VENUE tbc ('summer outing'). Devotions:*

17. Marie led us in Worship, Communion and Reaffirmation.