



HEXHAM ABBEY
HERITAGE • WORSHIP • COMMUNITY



DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

Appointment of an Associate Priest for the
Parish of St Andrew, Hexham

PARISH PROFILE
MAY 2025





HEXHAM ABBEY
HERITAGE • WORSHIP • COMMUNITY

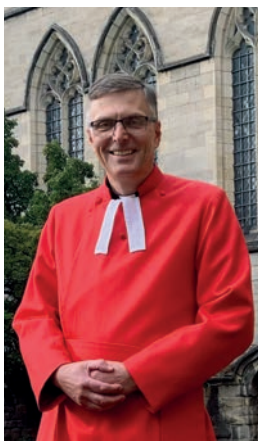
Hexham Abbey is a living, vibrant parish church drawing upon a long and prayerful heritage. It is a place where all are welcome, God's love is enjoyed, celebrated and shared, and where we seek the flourishing of all. The Abbey's stated mission is to be an open community of Christ's disciples, sharing our worship, engaging our faith with the world, and offering our lives to serve God's kingdom.



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WELCOME FROM THE RECTOR



I am delighted that you are considering whether God may be calling you to serve as Associate Priest at Hexham Abbey. In the five years I have been Rector I have found the life and community at the Abbey to be vibrant, welcoming, prayerful, friendly, dynamic, and a deeply rewarding and challenging place to serve. I look forward to working with a new colleague who will further strengthen and develop our mission and outreach to the Abbey congregation, the parish and the region, and to the 80,000 or so visitors, tourists and pilgrims who step through our doors every year. We seek an Associate Priest who has a deep love of God, delights in human flourishing, and who feels called to share God's transforming love in prayer, word and action.

A place of worship since AD 674, Hexham Abbey is an important link in the chain of Christianity in Northumbria from the 7th century to the present day. Some 80,000 worshippers, pilgrims and visitors enter the Abbey each year for services, private prayer, historical interest and quiet space. The Abbey is also regularly used for diocesan and civic services, for a wide range of cultural and musical events, and for a variety of special celebrations.

This is much more than a parish church. It is Grade I-listed and recognised by many as the mother church of Northumberland. It gives Hexham its character as an abbey town where the church is a visible focus of community life. Hence, the Abbey's mission, liturgy and spirituality have an essentially outward-facing character as well as helping to shape and inspire its congregation. Ask people what the Abbey is, and you will receive a variety of answers. While one person may say it is a parish church first and foremost, another may say it is a centre of heritage or a visitor destination. Others will cite a community resource, a venue for concerts and events, or 'the big church' for important occasions and Christmas services.

The life of the Abbey has numerous strands, including a rich liturgical life with a well-resourced, vibrant choir and music department; a commitment to encouraging discipleship and mission; and outreach to families, children and young people. We provide community engagement, pastoral care, and occasional office ministry; a wide musical and cultural programme; and a commitment to sharing, enhancing and celebrating our heritage with visitors. This is a place of hospitality and social inclusion; a business with a café, shop, catering and conference

facilities; and a deep awareness of our stewardship of a building which bears regional and national importance. As such, this is a large organisation with all the challenges and joys that entails. The Abbey has a committed PCC, a strong ministry and staff team, and more than 170 volunteers who offer much in enabling and enriching the life of the Abbey. Most importantly, this is an ancient place of worship at the heart of the North East's Christian tradition, with a deep commitment to inspiring worship, spiritual growth, and outreach to all.

A member of the Major Churches Network, over the last decade the Abbey has taken a transformational step, developing a £3m Heritage Lottery Fund-supported project to reunite the Abbey and its former priory buildings to create community resources and a hospitality and retail business. This larger organisation of church and business has experienced a strong period of consolidation over recent years and is now very much part of our identity. The congregation has become used to having trading activities on site which help to financially resource the Abbey and offer a vibrancy to parish life and missional openings. However, there are always both challenges and opportunities in how we handle this dynamic model.

This profile offers an overview of the organisation, its people and its community, and its joys, complexities, opportunities, and challenges as we seek an Associate Priest. When appointed, this person will work alongside our Incumbent and as part of a committed team to further strengthen and enhance our mission and outreach to the people of Hexham and the region. **Revd Canon David Glover**



1. THE DIOCESE

A large, diverse diocese at the beginning of an exciting, inspiring, and challenging new stage of life.





1.1 A MESSAGE FROM +HELEN-ANN

Thank you so much for your interest in this role. I hope you enjoy reading the information contained in this brochure and that you will find it helpful for your discernment.

These are exciting and challenging times in the Diocese of Newcastle. Exciting because we are at an early stage of a new season, challenging because like many dioceses we face conversations about our future and how best we use and deploy our resources. Our Deanery development work has engaged every parish and benefice in renewed conversations about mission and ministry, and we are in a process of entering a new phase in that work, mapping out our renewed strategy and vision.

Our outward facing values of 'seeking, sharing, sending' stem from a commitment to be a Church turning outwards in mission and ministry, and

younger and more diverse by SEEKING through being open to God's transforming love; SHARING through being generous with God's transforming gifts; and SENDING through being engaged in God's transforming work in the world.

I am looking for clergy who are excited about the opportunities and challenges we face, who are happy to work collaboratively and imaginatively with colleagues, and who can inspire communities to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into God's mission by affirming, enabling, and encouraging lay and clergy together. As your Bishop, I am committed to your well-being and development, and I would love to explore with you whether God may be calling you to this role.

The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley
Bishop of Newcastle





The Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England's most northerly Diocese. This Diocese in the land of the Northern Saints was formed in 1882 and comprises 169 parishes across 2,110 square miles. The Diocese covers the local authorities of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside and also small parts of County Durham and Cumbria. The 12 deaneries within two archdeaconries serve a population of about 831,600 people across a variety of communities ranging from sparse rural to large inner-city areas of deprivation.



2. CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Abbey town, market town, tight-knit community.
Introducing Hexham – its people and its church.





2.1 THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Hexham is a historic market town, home to c.12,000 people at the heart of Northumberland's Tyne Valley, 22 miles west of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Hexham is the commercial and social centre for the rural community which surrounds it. The ethnic profile of the town and parish is predominantly white British, while the social profile, though predominantly middle class, is quite mixed, with some pockets of deprivation. There is a broad age range in the town and seven state schools in the parish: a large high school (ages 13-19), two middle schools (ages 9-13), three first schools (ages 4-9), and one special school (ages 2-19). None are Church of England schools, while one first school and one middle school are Roman Catholic.

Hexham has a general hospital and primary care centre, while accident and emergency provision is provided at the Northumbria Hospital, Cramlington, 30 miles away. There are numerous voluntary organisations in the town, and the Abbey congregation is widely represented in local life. Housing comprises a mix of Victorian streets, 1930s homes, estates built in the 1970s-90s, new developments, housing association properties, and farms on the edge of the parish. Around two thirds of homes are owner-occupied and some 17% are social housing. There are several residential care homes and nursing homes.

Many residents commute to Newcastle and further afield. Others work in and around Hexham in professional and local services, schools, shops, cafés, small industries and trades, and at Egger UK

– a chipboard factory employing 600-plus.

Hexham's lively cultural life includes the annual Hexham Abbey Festival of Music & Arts (run by a separate organisation to the Abbey), an annual book festival drawing renowned authors and speakers, and numerous community events, many of them organised by Hexham Community Partnership. The town is home to Queen's Hall theatre and arts centre, and the community-run Forum cinema. The Abbey is a major venue for concerts and other cultural events, including hosting Royal Northern Sinfonia and other high-profile performers.

The town centre is an attractive mix of historic cobbled streets and more recent additions, and independent traders sit alongside national names such as Clarks, Crew Clothing Company, Seasalt, Waitrose, and Tesco. Hexham faces the high street trading challenges common throughout the UK, and the Abbey plays an important role in attracting visitors to the town. There is also a library and a leisure centre with gym, athletics track and swimming pool, and Hexham is home to England's highest racecourse, renowned as one of the most picturesque in England.

Visitors from all over the world are drawn to Hexham for its history, its proximity to Hadrian's Wall, and the surrounding countryside. The Abbey's annual 80,000 visitors enjoy the church itself, the Big Story exhibition, the Refectory Café, and the Abbey Shop. We always endeavour to offer a warm welcome.





2.2 THE ABBEY COMMUNITY

Founded by St Wilfrid in AD 674 and at the heart of the town physically, spiritually, socially and culturally, Hexham Abbey is held in deep affection by local people of all faiths and none. A busy, lively parish church, daily services reflect a variety of styles developed to foster inclusiveness. Hence, while the Abbey is renowned for its great musical tradition and excellence in liturgy, it also offers less formal worship and opportunities to be part of an active, engaged volunteer community.

The Abbey family includes four house groups, a large choir, a poetry and faith group, a Christian meditation group, a film club, home communion teams, Tots' Praise, Messy Church, Cloister Club and Take This youth groups, a bereavement team, Mothers' Union, bell ringers, a gardening team and more. The congregation is kept up to date with news and events via the weekly pew sheet, while the wider population is kept informed of Abbey life via social media, public relations and marketing activities, and the website.

Volunteers drawn from the congregation and the wider community are crucial to Abbey life. They include stewards in the Abbey and the Big Story exhibition, shop assistants, bell ringers, choir members and the flower team. Meanwhile, members of the Abbey community are active in many local and charitable projects.

The Abbey community enjoys social activities and trips, and worshippers socialise over breakfast and coffee on Sunday mornings. The age range within congregations varies from service to service and we are continually working to develop our offering to children and families. The Abbey is also acutely aware of addressing the needs of those with dementia or who experience neurodivergence.

All activities at the Abbey require a great team effort. The clergy work alongside the Churchwardens, PCC and laity, the staff team and a dedicated group of retired clergy to support our mission, activities and outreach. The PCC meets six times a year, the Standing Committee meets monthly, and the work of various sub-committees is crucial to the day-to-day running of the organisation.

There is insufficient space in this document to offer a full description of all the groups in the Abbey, so there is a list below, and as an addendum to this profile we enclose the Abbey Welcome pack.

Groups & committees

Standing Committee	
Churchwardens	Cloister Club
PCC	Take This
Hexham Abbey Trading Ltd (HATL) Board	Youth Alpha
Property Committee	Bereavement Team
Conservation Group	Mothers' Union
Social Committee	Poetry and Faith
GiFT groups	Flower Team
Choir	Abbey Stewards
Christian Meditation	Bell Ringers
Tots' Praise	Staging Team
Messy Church	Gardening Team
	Christmas Fair Team

Separate organisations serving the Abbey

Friends of Abbey Music
Hexham Abbey Restoration Trust
Hexham Abbey Heritage Development
Hexham Abbey Festival of Music and Arts

Key local partners

Hexham Churches Together
Local schools

Patrons

The Mercers' Company
Lord Allendale





Photo: Nick Thornton

2.3 WORSHIP & NUMBERS

PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

Sunday Services

- 8.15am** Holy Communion and breakfast (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Common Worship Order 1
- 10am** Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments. Common Worship Order 1
- 3pm** Messy Church (3rd Sunday)
- 6.30pm** Choral Evensong BCP (1st 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Iona/Taize style (2nd and 4th Sundays)

Weekday Services

- Monday-Friday** **9am** Morning Prayer
- Tuesday** **12pm** HC Common Worship Order 1
6.30pm Evening Prayer
- Wednesday** **9.30am** Tots' Praise
6.30pm (term time) Choral Evensong, BCP*
- Thursday** **6.30pm** (term time) Choral Evensong, BCP*
* Said Evening Prayer during school holidays

NUMBERS

- Population: 11,829
- Electoral Roll: 283
- Average Sunday communicants: 145
- Average Sunday attendance: 180
- Easter Morning attendance: 340
- Christmas Midnight and Morning: 600
- Average Choral Evensong attendance: Choir + 15
- Average Baptisms per annum: 14
- Average confirmations per annum: 5
- Average weddings per annum: 10
- Average funerals per annum: 45
- Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer: 8
- Tots' Praise: 13 children plus carers
- Messy Church (monthly): 12 children plus carers

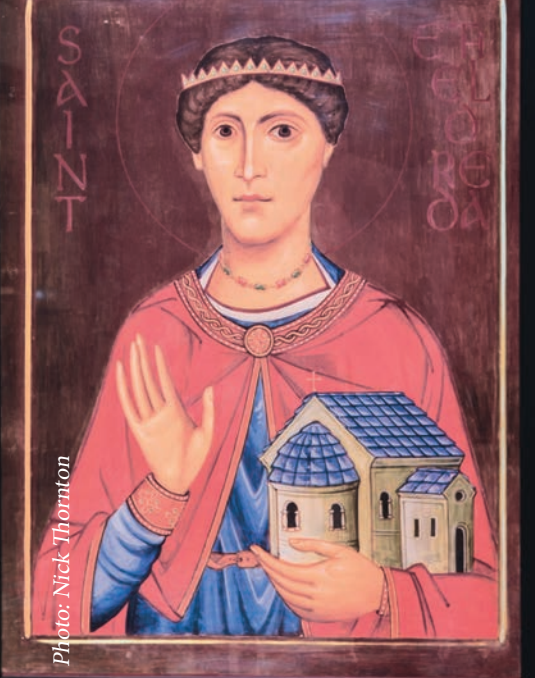


Photo: Nick Thornton



Photo: Nick Thornton



Photo: Anthony Marshall

2.4 CHURCH TRADITION

Hexham Abbey is recognised for its commitment to excellence in music and worship. The parish has an inclusive liberal catholic tradition, with a wider range of traditions represented and encouraged within the congregation.

The liturgy is anchored in a Eucharistic tradition, and variety is provided by services including Iona and Taize-style, and weekly silent meditative prayer. Choral Evensong takes place on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in school term-time. Preaching is taken seriously and adopts an open-minded approach to questions of ethics and theology, while being rooted in the Bible.

Women priests have been on the staff for approximately 25 years, and this is an inclusive church community.

The Abbey is renowned for its fine musical tradition, which dates to the 8th Century. The Director of Music and Assistant Director oversee the Abbey choirs which include boys, girls, and adult singers. The choir generally divides into two to ensure all services are covered but combines for larger services and at major festivals. The Ministry and music team are always open to exploring fresh expressions of worship.

2.5 MINISTRY

Alongside the Rector, the Abbey currently has a full-time Assistant Curate and two Readers. There are a number of retired clergy in the congregation who play a significant part in worship and ministry.

Lay worship and pastoral support

The Abbey has a strong tradition of lay participation in worship. This includes ALMs and

a rota of readers, intercessors, lay assistants and servers, in addition to a number of people licensed to administer the chalice.

Choir members and bell ringers also play an important part in worship, and the Abbey has teams which visit and administer communion in nursing homes and private homes.



2.6 DEANERY RELATIONSHIPS

Hexham is located in a Deanery of 400 square miles with six stipendiary clergy. The Deanery currently comprises six benefices/pastoral areas:

- Hexham
- St John Lee & Warden with Newbrough with Haydon Bridge & Henshaw
- Whitley Chapel
- Haltwhistle with Beltingham & Greenhead
- Allendale and Ninebanks with Whitfield
- Alston with Garrigill, Kirkhaugh, Knarsdale, Lambley & Nenthead

The Vicar of Haltwhistle is the Area Dean, and

the Lay Chair is from Hexham Abbey. All parishes are represented on the Deanery Development Group, which serves as the Deanery Standing Committee and Pastoral Committee. The diocese has an ongoing process of Deanery Development and planning.

Hexham Abbey comprises about half the deanery population, 40% of attendees and 40% of Parish Share. The Abbey has met its Parish Share request in full and is expected to do so in 2025. The Abbey is keen to be a key player in Deanery life and keen to explore how it might better resource the wider life of the Deanery.



2.7 ECUMENICAL LIFE

The Abbey plays an active role in Churches Together in Hexham (CTiH), which is well supported by the various denominations in the town. These include a Methodist church, a URC, a Roman Catholic church, Hexham Community Church, the Salvation Army, and the local Quaker Meeting House.

The Abbey values its ecumenical work, which is seen to be crucial to God's mission in Hexham. This means working together on a variety of projects such as Hexham Holiday Club and the annual Walk of Witness, in addition to welcoming other denominations to the Abbey and vice versa. A committee comprising all clergy and ministers and one lay representative from each congregation meets four times a year. The Chair

alternates between clergy and laity.

Ecumenical services and events include:

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – joint Sunday service and ecumenical prayer meetings through the week
- Ecumenical services during Holy Week
- Good Friday Walk of Witness
- Hexham Holiday Club: a week of activities for children in July
- Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the war memorial in Hexham
- Carols in the Park at Christmas

Many of these events are well supported, with their organisation coordinated between the churches as much as possible.

We also host a monthly Churches Together Morning Prayer in the Abbey.



2.8 THE PARISH & THE FUTURE

In January 2025 the PCC met to review the Abbey's recent developments and set a broad agenda for the next period of its life.

In particular we agreed that we will:

- Pursue growth in spiritual depth, numbers and service to the local community; focus on how we encourage concert and event attendees to engage with the Christian life of the Abbey.
- Continue to welcome co-operation with other organisations seeking the common good.
- Further develop our visitor experience; encourage a Christian faith understanding of the building and the site.
- Continue to develop and enrich our educational outreach in schools.
- Further develop our businesses via Hexham Abbey Trading Ltd; seek new opportunities; explore the use of our buildings for the benefit of the community.
- Further develop our professional fundraising.
- Deepen the Abbey's one-organisation ethos to further unify church and business life.

The Saints

We will continue to work to deepen our spiritual life and faith journey, supporting outreach to the community and promoting the Gospel values of justice, mercy, peace and the integrity of creation.

Saints Andrew, Wilfrid and Etheldreda have particular bearing for the Abbey and will continue to form the touchstones for our mission and ministry, as follows:

Andrew - Growing in breadth and numbers.

We will:

- Continue to nurture a welcoming, open and inclusive culture via welcomers, Sunday coffee, user-friendly christening orders of service, social events, etc.
- Continue our outreach to families via Messy Church, Tots' Praise, and the choirs; seek to better meet the needs of children and young people.
- Further develop visitor information about Christian faith and worship.
- Continue to develop outreach through music via the choirs and midweek evensong.

Wilfrid - Growing in faith and learning.

We will:

- Deepen faith development and learning via GiFT groups, courses and sermons; seek to nurture Christian faith via courses and events.
- Continue to strengthen links between heritage, community engagement and Christian faith via events celebrating the Christian tradition of the Abbey.

Etheldreda - Growing in prayer and generosity

We will:

- Deepen a sense and practice of prayer.
- Continue to seek a healthy level of parish giving; continue to develop income streams to ensure a sustainable financial position.
- Aspire to meet the cost of the Rector and Associate Priest via the parish share.
- Seek to develop engagement with the international church, e.g. the diocesan Botswana link.



Photo: Kevin Gibson



3. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & BUILDINGS

Parish church, Greater Church, site of Christian heritage, commercial operation.
Welcome to Hexham Abbey.



3.1 BUILDINGS

The Abbey church

The Grade I-listed Abbey church is a deeply atmospheric, sacred place, and one of the north's most magnificent historic churches. We are currently focusing on how the building can speak to our Christian story more fully, communicating the Christian faith more effectively for visitors. Thus, we are embarking on a major Heritage Lottery Fund bid to restore our medieval painted panels and improve the visitor experience.

We have also embarked upon a major new lighting upgrade, and following a recent disability audit we are implementing changes as part of an ongoing process. We are also considering how the building can be used in ways that are more sympathetic to those with dementia and people who are neurodivergent.

The Priory Buildings

In 2011, the PCC embarked on a £3m project to reacquire and refurbish the former Carnaby Building and Magistrates' Court adjoining the Abbey. This project was probably the most significant physical development here since the reformation – certainly since the nave was rebuilt in 1908. The buildings, lost to the Abbey at the reformation, were restored to PCC ownership in 2012, creating a historic opportunity to reunite the Abbey and its former priory and enhance our offering to the community, pilgrims and tourists. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with match funding from the Abbey's patrons, grant-making trusts and fundraising by the congregation.

The new facilities, created through the hard work of Abbey staff, the congregation and the local community, transformed the Abbey's social, commercial and educational activities, and significantly enhance its contribution to the community. The buildings help the Abbey to fully share its history, archaeology and treasures, allowing people to engage with it and its role in the Christian heritage of the North East. Facilities within the Priory Buildings

include the Big Story exhibition, which tells the story of the Abbey and significant events in the history of the town, the Refectory Café, community facilities and meeting rooms. An impressive cloister porch creates a welcoming space linking the south-west door of the Abbey and the Priory Buildings. The facilities have social value, extending the impact the Abbey has on people's lives and reaching out to the town and the wider community. Regular users of the facilities include community groups, social groups and charities.

Responsibility for the running of these facilities rests with Hexham Abbey Trading Ltd (HATL), which manages the Refectory Café, the Abbey Shop and facilities within the Priory Buildings. The PCC is the sole shareholder of HATL, which is managed by a board of directors. We are keen to seek new ways of enabling the Priory Buildings to support our mission further and the Associate Priest can play a key role in further developing this vision.

The Parish Centre

This cottage behind the Abbey is the administrative hub of the parish and home to our admin offices. It also provides an office for the new Associate Priest, which is shared with the Curate.

The Abbey Shop

The shop is run by Hexham Abbey Trading Ltd (HATL). It is staffed by a manager and volunteers and is popular with visitors and locals alike.

Churchyard and surroundings

There is a small now unused graveyard adjacent to the Abbey. Within the site there is also a cloister with a lawn which hosts outdoor events, a car park, and the Prior Leshman Garden, which is looked after by a dedicated and hard-working gardening team.

The Associate Priest's house

The diocese is in the process of securing a house for the new Associate Priest.



Photo: Kevin Gibson



Photo: Kevin Gibson



Photo: Anthony Marshall



Photo: Kevin Gibson



3.2 GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING

The overall governance of the Abbey is the responsibility of the Rector and PCC. The PCC has 16 members, which include the Rector and Assistant Curate (and the new Associate Priest), five Churchwardens, three Deanery Synod reps, and members elected at the APCM.

The PCC is the sole shareholder of Hexham Abbey Trading Limited (HATL) and all profits from the trading company are covenanted to the PCC. HATL is run by a General Manager responsible to the Rector and the HATL Board.

The PCC's Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer. The new Associate Priest will also become a member of the Standing Committee. The PCC also appoints other committees and advisory groups, including the Parish Safeguarding Team, the Property Committee, and the Conservation Advisory Group.

Staff members are employed by the PCC or by HATL, though there may be overlaps between various roles. As Incumbent, the Rector leads the Abbey community and the staff team. He is dedicated to working collegiately and in ways that enable and empower the staff team. While recognising the dual legal structure of the Abbey (PCC and HATL) he is keen to foster a one-organisation ethos.

Alongside the Assistant Curate, the following staff primarily work on the PCC element of the Abbey:

- The Abbey Operations Manager, who has

oversight of the buildings, health and safety, HR, faculty applications, vergers, stewards etc.

- The Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music, who are responsible for running the choirs, playing the organ for services, and working with the clergy in delivering a rich pattern of worship.
- The Abbey Fundraising and Community Outreach Manager has responsibility for seeking grants and other fundraising sources, in addition to delivering educational programmes and other community outreach events.
- The Parish Finance Officer looks after day-to-day finance operations.
- The Rector's Secretary supports the clergy in their work and administers the website, rotas, occasional office administration, social media, publicity, etc.
- The Vergers ensure the smooth day-to-day running and everyday maintenance of the Abbey and facilitate practical arrangements for services and other events.

The following primarily work on the trading side of the Abbey:

- The General Manager, who has responsibility for developing and managing the commercial life of the Abbey.
- The Café Manager and staff at the Rectory Café.
- The Shop Manager and assistants who run the Abbey Shop.
- The Events and Wedding Coordinator who assists the General Manager in delivering wedding receptions and commercial events.
- The Room Hire Supervisor who assists with room set-up and event support, etc.
- The Cleaner, who keeps everything in order.



4. THE POST OF ASSOCIATE PRIEST



4.1 THE NEW ASSOCIATE PRIEST

This is a wonderful opportunity to join this historic yet forward-looking church, and to work alongside our Rector and committed team of staff and volunteers within a dynamic, vibrant, stimulating and challenging environment. The role invites creativity and initiative, and the encouragement to explore and develop new and exciting dimensions in our ministry and mission. The Abbey is always open to fresh ideas and vision for worship, mission and outreach.

The Associate Priest will have a deep love of God and a desire to share that love with others. They will have a rich prayerful and spiritual commitment and be an inspiring teacher and preacher. They will have the ability to relate to all members of the congregation and others in the wider community, and will have excellent listening skills and a sympathetic and compassionate approach to all manner of situations. They will be forward-looking and innovative in embracing challenges and grasping opportunities. They will have a real sense of fun, a desire to enjoy working in a team, and will be a confident leader and a good collaborator. Hopefully they will have a good musical ear and feel confident to sing Evensong!

The Associate Priest will play a full share in all aspects of parish life and be an important and significant member of the Abbey Team. In addition, and depending upon their skill set, working with very able lay leaders they will lead in strengthening and developing one of the following two areas of Parish life (or a combination of the two):

- **Ministry and Mission to children, youth, schools, young adults and young families.**
- **Developing outreach and Christian nurture,**

discipleship, the spiritual engagement of visitors, adult education and GiFT groups (home groups).

The Abbey already offers significant outreach to children and young people, schools and young families, but this is an area always in need of development and fresh thinking. In particular we want to:

- Explore and further develop all the opportunities afforded to us by our young choristers and their families, and to encourage their engagement with the Christian faith and wider life of the church.
- To bring new insight and impetus to our offering for children and families at our main Sunday service.
- To develop work among teenagers and young adults, ideally in collaboration with other churches in Hexham.
- To further strengthen our activity in schools.
- To help the Abbey to become a more appealing place to young adults and young families.

The Abbey also already has a significant commitment to Christian discipleship education, but recognises the need to further develop this. In particular we want to:

- Develop Christian nurture.
- Enable our many “heritage” visitors to engage more fully with our Christian story.
- Further develop our GiFT programme and to offer it as a wider resource to the Deanery and beyond.
- Further develop lay ministries and encourage lay ministry.
- Enable Christian enquiry and ensure that as a worshipping community we are engaging with key social, environmental and political issues.



4.2 OUR PLEDGE TO THE ASSOCIATE PRIEST

We promise a wonderful opportunity to join a close-knit and active church family, blessed with a beautiful and historic place of worship at the spiritual and symbolic heart of its community within one of England's most attractive counties.

The Diocese and Parish is committed to finding and providing a good four-bedroomed family home for the Associate Priest. This will be within the parish and hopefully within walking distance of the Abbey.

The Hexham Abbey family will do all it can to help and support the new Associate Priest in this exciting and sometimes challenging role. The Rector

highly values collegiality and he, the PCC and Churchwardens are engaged, open-minded and committed to the well-being and flourishing of everyone at the Abbey.

The Associate Priest will be a key member of the wider staff team, will be given office space within the Abbey complex, and be fully reimbursed for all working expenses.

The well-being of our clergy is uppermost in our minds, and the Associate Priest will have our prayers, encouragement, friendship, and, almost certainly, lots of invitations to dinner.



QUESTIONS FOR APPLICANTS TO THE POST OF ASSOCIATE PRIEST

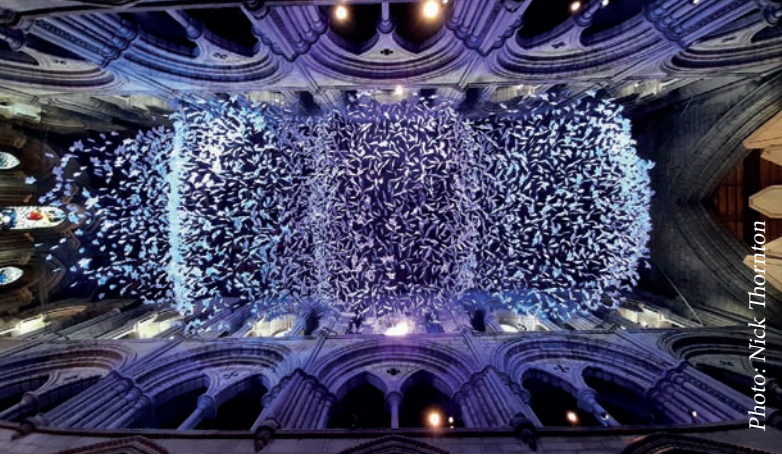
In this document, we have endeavoured to present an overview of Hexham Abbey in all its parts – parish church, Major Church, tourist attraction and business.

Our deeply held wish is that the Abbey's new Associate Priest will embrace the opportunities and challenges inherent in an organisation which is larger and more complex than most parish churches. We hope for an Associate Priest who will delight in working closely with our very experienced and much-valued Rector, and relish the opportunity for strategic leadership and development.

There follow some questions a potential Associate Priest may wish to ask themselves before they decide to apply for the post:

- Do you have a love for God and a deep desire to share that love in a way that enables people to flourish and find blessing?
- Are you a good team player but also a good leader and an enabler of others?
- Are you excited about working alongside a Rector who will fully support you but also encourage you to develop new initiatives and new strategies?
- Do you have the heart and vision for developing our work with young people and families or for encouraging discipleship, learning and nurture (or something of both)?
- Do you excel in people skills which will enable you to explore and develop the Abbey's vision alongside the Rector, Churchwardens and PCC; connect effectively with the wider community, the deanery and the region; and care pastorally for the congregation?
- Do you feel God calling you to work in a Major Church with all its opportunities and complexities but where discipleship, worship and mission must be at the heart of all we do?
- Are you excited about preaching and communicating the Christian faith in ways that are stimulating and engaging?

Thank you for considering applying for the role of Associate Priest at Hexham Abbey. We look forward to hearing from you.





HEXHAM ABBEY
HERITAGE • WORSHIP • COMMUNITY

Beaumont Street, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NB

tel: 01434 602031

www.hexhamabbey.org.uk

 /HexhamAbbey