



# Hexham Presbyterian Church

*Glorifying God and enjoying Him together.*

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## Ministerial Vacancy

### **Our Congregation:**

Hexham Presbyterian Church (HPC) has been worshipping the triune God in the Tyne Valley since February 2015. We are a church plant of All Saints Presbyterian Church, Newcastle, formerly Gateshead Presbyterian church, and both churches are members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales (EPCEW), a reformed and confessional denomination founded in 1996, with congregations in England & Wales and also in mainland Europe.

We meet for corporate worship morning and evening on the Lord's Day, and a weekly prayer meeting takes place in one of the members' homes every Wednesday evening.

By God's grace, we seek to bring an evangelical and historically reformed ministry to the Tyne Valley – where we are one of the only gospel witnesses. We seek to do this by being committed to Biblical preaching as part of God's means of grace. Based on the Shorter Catechism's 1<sup>st</sup> question and answer, we have adopted the following vision statement: **Glorifying God and enjoying Him together.**

Throughout the year there are opportunities for fellowship with other churches in the North East, both within the EPCEW and other reformed congregations. HPC also enjoys close links with Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary based in Newcastle. Many of their students, past and present, have led us in worship in recent years, and two students have served as interns. The congregation currently averages around 30 people (which is a decent size in the context of British reformed and evangelical churches). We have half a dozen families of varying ages, and on any given Sunday up to half of our worshippers will be children. Since Hexham is located in Northumberland, a county which enjoys much creation beauty and outdoor pursuit opportunities, we are often joined by other believers for worship, who are visiting the area. Following the morning service there is always a time for fellowship & refreshments, which is often continued in members' homes as part of 'Open House'. These times of fellowship are precious to us.

Our regulated worship consists of reading and preaching the Word, prayer, sung praise and the administration of the sacraments. We sing hymns and psalms and celebrate the Lord's Supper twice a month. Our meeting location is the Torch Centre, a community centre open and in use throughout the week, next to the town's hospital and close to the centre of Hexham.

The ladies of our congregation meet on a weekly basis for fellowship and encouragement by reading through some appropriate Christian literature.

### **Our community:**

Hexham is an historic rural Market Town located in the picturesque county of Northumberland in northern England and has a population of approximately 13000. It is situated on the south bank of the River Tyne with several nearby villages. Newcastle upon Tyne, located near the coast, is 23 miles to the east and Carlisle is 38 miles to the west. Hexham has several historic buildings, the most notable being its Abbey built in 674 AD adjacent to the beautiful Sele Park. Several new housing estates and apartments have recently been completed or are under construction in Hexham and nearby villages, so the population is growing. Hexham has excellent modern shopping, sporting, leisure, arts, tourism, educational and transport facilities. There are train and bus stations in the town and Newcastle upon Tyne Airport is 20 miles away. Hexham recently won first place in the



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'Happy at Home' Index, which asked more than 21,000 people across Britain how they felt about where they live. The survey asked participants about 10 different areas including community spirit, facilities, green spaces, and cultural activities. Further information and photographs of Hexham are available at [www.visitnorthumberland.com/explore/destinations/towns-villages/hexham](http://www.visitnorthumberland.com/explore/destinations/towns-villages/hexham)

## **Our Priorities for a minister:**

After seven years of faithful service, founding minister Josh Rieger has had to return to the United States as his wife sought ongoing medical care. HPC is now looking to call a full-time pastor who will serve and grow the congregation through faithful preaching of the whole counsel of God, by pastorally caring for the sheep and bringing an ordinary means of grace ministry to bear upon our lives. We are looking for a man who will care for the souls of God's people and encourage them towards spiritual maturity. We believe, with the Lord's blessing, that there exists much potential for growth in this locality, and we are seeking a minister who will share the vision of growing us in all aspects into Him who is the Head of the church, even Christ. We are also looking for a man who will lead us in calling to Christ those appointed to eternal life!

We believe the teachings of Scripture are succinctly summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and we would expect any prospective minister to be able to uphold these in good conscience. The denomination's Committee for Ministerial Education & Training (CMET) will examine any candidates put forward by the search committee and the All Saints session.

## **Stipend:**

While our congregation's savings and giving income are sufficient to cover the nonministerial running costs of the church (with a little left over) our situation as a church plant involves seeking a minister with the ability, vision and drive to raise funds to support himself and his family - until the work can grow into a self-sustaining and particularised congregation. No prior fund-raising experience is needed; however, and our parent congregation (All Saint's Presbyterian) has significant links to donors in USA. The congregation and the session would work flexibly with a new minister to make fundraising possible.



*The Abbey in Hexham*



*Hexham from the air*

*Nearby  
Hadrian's  
Wall*





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The search committee welcomes any applications as they are received, and any candidates who advance in the search deliberations will then be contacted to arrange a meeting and an opportunity to meet the congregation over a weekend.

**To express an interest:**

**Revd Benjamin Wontrop**  
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For more information: **HPC:** <https://www.hexhampres.uk> **ASPC:** <https://allsaintspres.org.uk>

**EPCW:** <http://www.epcew.org.uk/about>