

CARTMEL PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST MICHAEL

PROPOSAL TO BUILD A NEW ANNEXE TO HOUSE A KITCHEN AND TOILETS

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF NEED

Members of the congregation have lobbied for better kitchen facilities and new toilets for some 20 years. The kitchen is very cramped in its current location in the Narthex and involves going up and down some steep stone steps with a very low head room. The nearest toilet facilities for the congregation and public are elsewhere in the village. There is an increased need for a better and safer kitchen and to provide toilets for a growing congregation and wider community use.

People attending services or who may have travelled distances for funerals, weddings and christenings need toilets with proper provision for those with disabilities and baby changing facilities. The introduction of special family services and the use of the Priory by two Church of England schools has highlighted the lack of facilities for children as well as having importance for the older members of the congregation. Understandably these days worshippers and participants in a wide range of community events and activities expect a church of Cartmel Priory's size to be able to provide toilets. Asking them to go to the public toilets in the village or having to go to the expense of hiring portaloos is not a sustainable solution, especially The Priory is also an important tourist attraction with some 65,000 visitors from across the country and worldwide.

Greater use of the newly created space in the nave, following the removal of one section of the Victorian pews and the relocation of the Victorian Font in 2018, has enabled the Priory to host more church and community events for all age groups on a regular basis. Recent examples include the Sharing Memories lunches for the over 75's and 60 pupils from Cartmel Primary School, a very successful Festival of Angels to be followed up this Christmas with a Festival of Stained Glass, special services for organisations such as the Order St John, Cumbria's Mother's Unions, St Mary's Hospice, the Furness Music Centre and Windermere School, theatrical and music events. The current kitchen facilities severely limit what refreshments we can offer and all meals have to be brought in by an outside caterer.