
The Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael, Cartmel

2021 Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility to work with the incumbent Reverend Nick Devenish, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and immediate surrounding area.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Cartmel. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how our services can involve all members of the local community and the many visitors to the area. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, meditation (Silence), sacrament and music.

Objectives and Activities

We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the local and wider community through:

- worship and prayer; learning more about the Gospel and increasing their faith
- provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and members of the Priory community who live further afield
- missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Priory Church, improving and developing when and where necessary.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services that our community, live and online, find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. 'Silence' provides a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship such as our monthly Family Service.

COVID Pandemic

Our Reader, Dianne Maguire, took on the role of COVID Officer. Her role was to ensure the safety of our parishioners and to organise service bookings.

As a result of the pandemic a service of Compline has been streamed each weeknight at 9.00pm (and continues to be so) through which a new community of worshippers from the UK and abroad has been established. The Vicar continues to write a weekly Reflection for our mailing list.

In January 2021 the vicar and wardens decided that services should continue to be online or separate streamed services. This was agreed by the PCC at their January 'zoom' meeting.

With no Lent course this year, members of the Priory community were invited to join the Vicar in the reading of St John's Gospel at 10.00am each morning.

A 'virtual' Good Friday Service took place, but there were two services on Easter morning (9.30 and 10.30) for which booking was necessary for the limited places available at the west end of the Priory. Bookings continued to be taken in the spring and early summer months.

In May eight choristers were permitted to sing in the Town Choir and this number was gradually increased as restrictions were eased. The choir were able to return to the chancel when restrictions were lifted; Choral Evensong and the monthly 9.30 Family Service were reintroduced in September.

The Christmas services were much better attended than had been anticipated: Nine Lessons and Carols; a Crib Service outside in the Priory grounds and a Christmas morning service.

Although limited in number we were able to allow our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral and memorial services family and friends express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. Despite the fact that the priory remained closed until 4th April, two baptisms and three weddings were celebrated; fourteen funerals were held and two memorial services for Priory members – Clare Bell and Ron Radley. The Vicar also took weddings and funerals at St Peter's Field Broughton and St Peter's Finsthwaite.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod: Dianne Maguire, Simon McCleery and Val Richardson. There have been three meetings during the year.

Priory Care

Some members of our congregation are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. This year has been particularly difficult as a result of the pandemic, but our Reader, Dianne Maguire, has regular contact by phone, email or personal visits with all our members who request and will celebrate communion by extension.

Dianne took over the role from Joy Rutter who carried out the task of visiting with sensitivity and conscientiousness.

Mission and Evangelism

Our mission is to reach out, to support, to be supported and to be inclusive so that all can know the love of Jesus and to experience the growth of God's kingdom. (Cartmel Priory: Towards the next 800 years)

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Several Barrow Food Bank appeals have taken place during the year, and these have been well resourced by members of the congregation and village.

Although not on such a grand scale as 2020, Christmas gifts were taken to all elderly and frail members of the Priory and village communities. Again, thanks are due to those who organised, packed and distributed the gifts.

Annabel Hunt has worked to keep everyone up to date with all changes which have taken place due to COVID. She has emailed weekly service sheets which have kept everyone informed of the important matters affecting our church and the Vicar's weekly Reflections - articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

The Priory Shop continues to be part of our Outreach programme, and despite lockdown, shielding, mask wearing and social distancing the shop has again acted as a source not only of income for the Priory but as a focal point for visitors to the church. A warm welcome (if behind a mask) is given and the literature and goods on sale remain a powerful witness to our faith and outreach.

Face2Face at Cartmel was a mask-based exhibition which encouraged visitors and locals to reflect on the previous year and to use a mask to express the emotions felt about the pandemic. Our two schools and Montessori Nursery entered into the spirit of the event when almost the whole west end of the Priory was filled with a colourful display of masks – a moving exhibition drawing in people from around the country. The proceeds of the event were shared between the Priory and local mental health charities.

Cartmel Village Christmas again brought in hundreds of people to the Priory, with children queuing to see Santa and the choir singing carols - another example of Priory and Community working together.

Mothers' Union

Although unable to meet in the early part of the year members of the MU and friends enjoyed Afternoon Tea at the Hospice in June, shared with the Deanery in a Service of Meditation in September and held their own Advent Meditation in November. Christmas lunch was enjoyed at Hampsfell Hotel. Everyone expressed their gratitude to Pat Foulerton (Leader) who had visited and/or phoned members throughout the period of the pandemic. Pat's care is greatly appreciated.

The **Priory School** held two Carol Services (to ensure safe distancing) and a Nativity presentation by the **Cartmel Primary School** was also staged.

A Vision Morning to enable PCC members to get together in person to review the document ***Towards the next 800 years*** had been planned for the autumn; unfortunately, this had to be delayed. It is anticipated that this will take place in the spring of 2022.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the community it is. Mention should be made of the Wardens who work tirelessly on our behalf and the Treasurer, the recently retired Dr Roger Baxter and now Dr Fiona Smith, appointed by the PCC to succeed him.

The shop is manned by volunteers from across the Peninsula and their faithful service following the pandemic is greatly appreciated by the PCC. Shop hours have been reduced, but even so, a minimum of 4 hours of supervision is needed from Monday to Saturday.

The bell ringers play an important role in the witness of the Priory; prior to ringing re-commencing, the bells were inspected for safety by the Diocesan inspection team. Sandie Mills stood down from her role as Tower Captain in March; Bob Somerset has taken on the role, with Helen Scott acting as secretary.

The Wardens are grateful to the small number of the congregation prepared to act as stewards for services during 2021. With the precautions needed it has not been an easy task and the handful of people fulfilling the role have been meticulous in the care they have taken.

The Priory Church Building

We want our church to be open as often as possible for private prayer and for visitors. The rota of welcomers and shop stewards has enabled us to continue this ideal in the latter part of 2021. However, the hours of opening now vary as the PCC feels it important to ensure that when visitors arrive there is not only a welcome, but that visitors and members of the Priory congregation can be kept safe by following the necessary guidelines.

In order to preserve the building, the Priory Church has remained heated throughout the pandemic closure, although this has in some measure also resulted in falling masonry in the south transept and the closing off of pews until the matter was dealt with.

The plans for the new build at the north of the Priory have been re-assessed to ensure they are future proof and thus fit for purpose in the years to come. The necessary archaeological dig revealed nothing of any significance, and we now await more detailed drawings from the architect.

Cartmel Priory School and Cartmel Primary School

The staff at both Cartmel Church Schools have worked incredibly hard during a very difficult time with all the added stresses and work caused by the global pandemic. The headteachers and staff have worked tirelessly ensuring the support of the young people. Staff were needed to provide physical teaching in class as well as a virtual offer for those who were self-isolating. We continue to hold all who are connected to our schools in our prayers as we hopefully are moving out of the pandemic.

Pastoral Reorganisation

The draft scheme for The Pastoral reorganisation is ongoing albeit slowly. Parishes have been working from May 2021 as though the reorganisation has been completed and to this end two interim vicars were appointed. Revd. Jane Maycock who is part time with responsibility for Flookburgh and Allithwaite and Revd. Jonathan Brewster who has responsibility for the parishes of Grange, Field Broughton and The Leven Valley Churches. The Priory vicar is in regular contact with the new interim vicars.

Electoral Roll

Sandie Mills, our Electoral Roll Officer has reported that as of 31st December 2021 the following were recorded.

Total number on roll: 165

110 people are resident in the parish and 55 are non-resident
Included in this number 4 people who have moved away during 2021 and 1 deceased person – Clare Bell.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At the Priory Church the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Reader and members elected by members of the Electoral Roll of the Priory. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met (of necessity via Zoom) nine times during 2021. Sub committees have not met, but Wardens have had regular Zoom meetings with the Vicar. However, Worship, Fabric, Finance and our two schools are permanent agenda items and have been reported on and thoroughly discussed. Ratified, signed minutes will be available in the Priory.

Safeguarding & GDPR Officer Mrs Dianne Maguire

Safeguarding training at the appropriate level has been undertaken by PCC members.

PPC members who have served at any time during 2021 until the date this report is approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Nick Devenish (Chairman)
- Reader: Mrs Dianne Maguire, representative on Deanery Synod
- Wardens: Mr John Iveson (Vice chairman)
- Mrs Tessa Pemberton
- Dr Roger Baxter (Treasurer) succeeded in September 2021 by

- Dr Fiona Smith (Treasurer)

Elected members:

- Mrs Helen Bailey
- Mr James Bertlin (Until April 2022)
- Mr Matthew Booth
- Mrs Pat Foulerton
- Mr David Huggett (Until April 2022)
- Mrs Judy Johnson
- Mrs Jill Lucas
- Mr Simon McCleery, representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Annette O'Donoghue
- Mrs Valerie Richardson, representative on Deanery Synod
- Miss Julie Robinson

In attendance:

- Ms Annabel Hunt PA to the Vicar
- Mrs Mary Iveson PCC Secretary

