
The Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael, Cartmel

2023 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 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 – both within the village and in respect of our numerous visitors. Weddings and baptisms are also a welcome opportunity for outreach.

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

Wardens' Report

John Iveson writes on behalf of the Wardens:

Since the pandemic and its associated lockdowns, there could be a forgivable sense of discouragement at the reduced size of our regular Sunday congregation. Not so! - we are in fact increasingly heartened by the slow growth in numbers we are now experiencing on Sundays, and a glance through this Annual Report should be sufficient to reassure anyone that Cartmel Priory is very much a vibrant and living community in the breadth and scope of the various organisations and activities detailed within.

To use the memorable phrase – a lack of ‘elves’ would seem to be the only hindrance to even greater activity! Nonetheless we sincerely thank everyone who contributes so much in so many ways.

Foremost in the minds of the Wardens and PCC is, of course, the matter of the Pastoral Reorganisation – our continuing quest to establish the Priory as a single, self-contained benefice. Progress has been slow, but we are heartened by the promise of new clergy appointments to the other proposed benefices. We feel encouraged that this would indicate a movement in the right direction towards achieving the desired goal of pastoral reorganisation for all the affected communities.

Similarly, we are making steady progress in the new build and re-ordering of the Priory itself. Our architect, Dominic Roberts has the full support of the PCC as he negotiates on our behalf the intricacies of planning and red tape which are an integral and necessary part of such a large project.

So, there is much to look forward to as we continue to promote the Priory’s mission to be a Christian presence of spirituality and hospitality in this place. In so doing, your Wardens are ever mindful of bequeathing this special building and its ministry to our successors in a stronger position than before. We are conscious of the great honour and trust reposed in us to deliver this, and with God’s help (and the Priory elves) we strive to prove ourselves worthy of your trust by so doing.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC continues to support a range of services in the Priory as well as looking to new initiatives. The time of Silence provides a reflective environment for devotion whilst the monthly Family Service offers a more outgoing style of worship. The monthly informal BCP communion service in the Town Choir followed by a simple lunch continues to prove very popular and the PCC is grateful for the support of a local charity in this. The impact of COVID continues, with many more elderly members of the congregation failing to return after the pandemic. On a more positive note, we have had new faces in our congregation, some of whom now play an integral role in the Priory’s outreach.

The monthly Family Service encourages many ‘new’ to the church to become involved, and it is a particular joy to be joined by recently baptised children and their parents and grandparents on a regular basis.

The star hunt (an important feature of the 9.30 Family Service) is fun for young and old alike – although the young are much quicker at spotting the stars hidden away in the films. Henry completed his target of 200 stars during 2023, and the picture shows him receiving his award from Revd Nick.





Our Christingle Service continues as a 'highlight' of the year and is always a moving occasion. Aoife is shown here with her lighted candle.

The Vicar continues to offer a service 'Night Prayers' which began during lockdown, supporting an online congregation (from both the UK and abroad) who share this spiritual connection and he continues to write a 'Reflection' printed in the weekly posting.

A magnificent Shrove Tuesday lunch was served and enjoyed by a large number of villagers, congregation and visitors. This was followed by our Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes, and during Lent the Vicar led a series of weekly discussions. Posies were made by MU members for Mothering Sunday and cake was offered at coffee as some of us appreciatively broke our Lenten fast!

We are grateful to John Shippen for leading the services of Compline during Holy Week, culminating in the always moving service for Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday the Priory kept the Observance of the Hours, giving time and space to reflect on the events of the crucifixion.

The Easter Vigil was attended by members of other churches on the Peninsula and Easter Day was celebrated with joy and an Easter Egg Hunt organised by Gemma and Matt Bacon.

After the sadness of Queen Elizabeth's death in 2022 it was with celebration that we enjoyed the festivities of the first coronation in more than seventy years; appropriately decorated cake was enjoyed with coffee, in celebration.

Ice cream Sunday made a welcome return in early July. Kites were made and paper planes flown from the top of the tower and burgers and ice cream were enjoyed.



August Bank Holiday heralds Steeplechase Sunday when we welcome crowds of race goers and a local horse and jockey – an important event in our calendar.

The Christmas services of 2023 felt like old times.

Sadly, the Light up a Life service had to be cancelled because of bad weather, but the Carol Service, held a week later, for the Order of St John was a joyful occasion. Invited guests in the congregation included the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff and the service concluded with the presentation of long service awards.



The Priory Choir, under the direction of Adrian Self, was on top form as Christmas approached, and the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (which fell on a Saturday evening - the start of a long weekend) produced a rich variety of music with a congregation larger than for several years. Crowds once more descended for our Christmas Eve Crib Service with the Priory packed to the rafters.

The milestones of our journeys through life were observed. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, and in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing. Through funeral and memorial services family and friends are able to 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. We give thanks for all those who considered the Priory a central part of these rights of passage and remember them in love and prayer.

Deanery Synod

There are two elected members to the Deanery Synod in post until 2026: Dianne Maguire and Valerie Richardson. There have been three meetings during the year usually alternating between Allithwaite and Windermere.

Safeguarding Report

At this point in time the Priory is very fortunate to be able to say there are no concerns in regard to any safeguarding issues. The *Parish Safeguarding Policy* has been reviewed and a copy is held in the filing cabinet in the vestry for reference.

Within the filing cabinet, referenced above, there is a whole section dedicated to safeguarding with referral forms, and necessary guidance should a safeguarding incident be referred to us. There is also the *Responding Well to Domestic Violence* policy, and *Safer Environment and Activities* policy that are always at hand should they be required.

The Priory was one of the first churches in the diocese to trial the Safeguarding Dashboards. I am pleased to say that we have achieved 100% and are one of the first churches in the diocese to hold this. The dashboard is a simple on-line tool that allows you to cover all aspects of safeguarding in a manner that is easy to navigate and gives a plan of where you need to focus.

On both of the entry points to the Priory, at the north and south doors, the Safer Church posters are displayed with details and contact details of the Safeguarding Officer for the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Posters have been placed at various points in the building to cascade information to vulnerable persons.

The majority of the PCC have completed the Basic and Foundation courses and also the Responding Well to Domestic Abuse.

I have also completed the *Safer Recruitment* Course to enable the Priory to recruit new people to roles in a safe way.

Dianne Maguire - Safeguarding Officer

Priory Care

The Pastoral team keep in contact and make personal visits. The Vicar and Reader are always happy to take communion to those who make this request.

Our Vision for the Next 800 Years

Our Vision is to reach out to all as the Priory continues to be a beacon of Christian Spirituality.

A Vision Morning to enable PCC members the opportunity to review the document ***Towards the Next 800 Years*** which had to be postponed in 2022 took place in the spring of 2023 at Hare Hill Barn. It was led by Helen Bailey, and you will have read of the discussions in the Vicar's report.

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

Christmas gifts were once again taken to elderly and frail members of the Priory and village residents. Thanks are due to those who financed, organised, packed and distributed the gifts.

Annabel Hunt continues to email weekly service sheets which keep as many people as possible informed of the important matters affecting our church and also contain 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 a focal point for visitors to the church. A warm welcome is given and the literature and goods on sale remain a powerful witness to our faith and outreach.

Cartmel Village Christmas 2023 again brought in hundreds of people to the Priory, with children queuing to see Santa and a general air of anticipation and excitement. Primary school staff and pupils dressed up for the occasion and students from the Priory School ran stalls, played and sang appropriate music - another example of Priory and Community working together.

Cartmel Schools

Pat Foulerton became ***Foundation Governor*** on behalf of the Priory in 2022 and is, as she would say, still learning the ropes!

Pat writes: *I feel very privileged to be a Governor of Cartmel Priory School and am enjoying my role immensely. Sarah Beestone, Head Teacher, and all her staff are totally committed to the education and well-being of all the pupils. I was given a tour of the school and so impressed*

with all amenities that are available for the pupils. All are greeted by warm friendly staff and it is easy to see what a very happy atmosphere exists in the School. Cartmel Priory School is very caring and committed to the students' success in all areas - academic, personal and social development.

Dorothy Milner, **Foundation Governor at the Primary School on behalf of the Priory**, writes:

As I write this we are working together as a school community, with a renewal of Spring around the corner, full of enthusiasm, based at all times upon our Mission Statement:

Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns grow

We will do our best, be happy and honest, show respect and be friendly.

‘Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life’

Proverbs 22:6 (Good News version)

Strong Christian leadership supported by Revd Nick, permeates throughout the school community, creating the safe nurturing environment required for successful learning. Academic results continue to be good, and the school prides itself on its supportive environment for meeting the needs of all learners. Children are planning and delivering their own Worship sessions and growing in confidence with the subject matter.

Recently achieving the Gold Award with ‘Artsmark,’ the school has begun the journey towards the Platinum stage. This will be continuing to facilitate ingenious and inspiring activities to encourage children to develop their ‘life skills’ using a creative approach through both visits and visitors. A Poetry Evening is soon to be a highlight of the school calendar.

Links with the Priory and the local community reinforce the success of the school, and a recent display on Climate Justice in the Priory highlighted the children’s concern over the environment. The ‘Heritage’ booklet written by the children, is now circulated for sale throughout the community.

The school continues to develop links through ‘Children of Hope,’ with a school in Uganda. This is a Christian based charity, which, through its school, is enabling improvements for children and families by providing free education, healthcare, food and clothing to poor and vulnerable families. Links also with Ghana have been established. The school is involved in other worthy Charity fundraising throughout the year, admirably participating in the profile of the school Christian Values.



Our MP admires the children's work in the Priory

Parents, governors and friends from the community, were absolutely thrilled by the talents of the children shown in their staging of their Christmas production in the Priory. Weather permitting, school uses Forest School work in the local woods to develop confidence, team building and awareness of the beauty of the natural world.

Work has begun in developing the school grounds, to create an environmental space which supports the well-being of everyone. Children have been involved in the initial stages and excitement is building for the future.

As a school community we have shared the joy of news about additions to the families of staff members over the year and as governors continue to work together, in a climate of financial uncertainties for educational funding, to support the well-being of everyone in our precious school.

Guided Tours

One of our guides, Jeff Appleyard, writes:

As well as stewarding and welcoming visitors to our wonderful Priory, I am also a volunteer Guide providing tours using the excellent information provided to me by Ewen Cameron as well as supplementary training and research when I qualified as a Cumbria Blue Badge Tourist Guide as well as being a member of local history groups.

Guiding the Priory is always a challenge because there is so much information and interest to fit into any visit. I have had the pleasure to guide U3A groups, special interest parties and families. For each one I think about, what do the visitors want to see, what will they be interested in and how can I engage their interest. My tours can be as short as a 20-minute highlight tour as we did for the Mediaeval Day in September, to something more detailed, around 45 minutes. For special interest tours we also have the full 90-minute tour!

My most rewarding tour was my most recent showing the Priory to Jack, a young man, who was learning about the Normans. He used a motorised wheelchair, had vision impairment and used a voice prosthesis. With the use of the portable ramps, he was able to visit all parts of the Priory. But it was important to think of what Jack might not be able to see from his chair, so for example with the Misericords I got him to position himself where he could clearly see the Mermaid with two tails through the gap with the rope removed. For the other carvings I was able to show him pictures from the guidebook. His favourite thing though, despite the torrential rain outside, was the light streaming in through the East window.

We have an amazing array of visitors from all around the world, USA, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, Croatia, Italy and Spain are just some of the people I have greeted. It is a great privilege to welcome them all, whatever their motivation. Some are just here to take a quiet moment or light a candle, others to visit the shop. Many like receiving an introduction to the Priory, others prefer to "do their own thing." Despite all the magnificent things to see in the Priory, the radiators halfway up the walls and the Memento Mori graves with the skull and crossbones are often things people pick out to ask questions about. So, my knowledge of the Harrington tomb or the quadripartite ceiling in the Piper Choir has to be balanced with a knowledge of heating dynamics and lack of piratical links to the Priory.

Mothers' Union



The year has not been without its sadness as member numbers have dwindled and illness has taken its toll. We continue to pray both for those who are unable to be with us and for the future of our branch.

The year began with the small committee meeting to discuss the way forward for our branch. The number of active members of our branch has continued, for various reasons, to decline and with sorrow, we agreed we must face the reality that our branch was not as strong as it had been, but that we should move forward in the most positive way we could.

We again shared a Holy Week meditation devised so long ago by Iris Cross. There is a real sense of Iris (such a devoted member) especially at this time. We were grateful to the Vicar for concluding our meditation with Holy Communion and to John Iveson for providing

accompanying music. As usual this was followed by a soup and bread and cheese lunch, with contributions to MU funds.

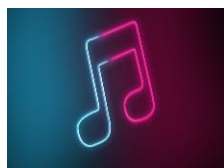
Our Advent Meditation seems to have become a fixture in our calendar. This took place in the Priory in November, followed, on this occasion, by mulled wine and mince pies in the Piper Choir (a cosy and intimate space) with pretty tables and candles. For the first time, twelve members joined us from the Milnthorpe and Heversham branch and one member from Flookburgh; it was lovely to have so many people sharing this time together and again we thank John for his musical contribution.

It is both a privilege and a responsibility to be a member of the Mothers' Union; an organisation which is so much more than a 'club'. We are part of a movement which, although we might not be aware of it, influences decisions made across the world, from the United Nations to small, remote villages.

We look forward to a bright, albeit different, future and sharing, from time to time, with our sister branch in Heversham/Milnthorpe.

Mary Iveson

Music in the Priory



Thanks to the incredible loyalty and devotion of the Priory Choir we have been able to maintain the tradition of two sung services each Sunday which is now almost unknown within Carlisle Diocese.

Because of the expense of heating the Priory and my finding increasing difficulty with driving to and from Dalton on a Friday night, we have not had any evening choir practices since the end of October, although we did have two afternoon rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Service in December. Sadly, the planned 'Light up a life' carol service on December 3rd had to be cancelled for the third year in a row, this time because of the heavy snowfall over the weekend.

It was a great joy to host a tea party at the back of the Priory after evensong on May 21st to help Wendy Brown celebrate her ninetieth birthday. Wendy is now the longest-serving chorister and also one of the most regular. She continues to sing alto in the choir and long may it continue!

On September 4th, thanks to the generosity of the late Anne Cheetham, the Priory Choir were able to enjoy a lovely day out on the 'Ratty', with a train ride from Ravenglass to Eskdale and a superb pub lunch, all in perfect weather.



The Priory organ has had some remedial work on part of the pedal department: some of the large pipes were taken away to Durham for repair and one of the pedal windchests overhauled. Other than a few niggles, the Priory organ continues to behave impeccably.

Musically, 2023 was a quieter year than most with comparatively fewer events than pre-pandemic – *Annabel Hunt details the concerts in her article below.*

January 28th A presentation to members of the Cumbrian Society of Organists on the organ music of Flor Peeters (who gave one of the opening recitals on the Priory organ in 1970)

April 10th Easter Monday lunchtime organ concert

August 19th Cumbrian Society of Organists marathon

Adrian Self, Priory Organist and Choirmaster

.. and choir members recognise the patience, kindness and skill our choirmaster shares with us week by week. Thank you, Adrian. (MI)

A Musical Miscellany

Budgets were still badly stretched post pandemic year – this sadly applied to musicians as well as medieval priories, but Cartmel Priory was able to offer a goodly mix of some very fine music throughout the year.

February: Julia & Mike Carroll and Friends (Danielle Louise Thomas, Mary Iveson and Simon McCleery and accompanist Ray Booth) generously devised and performed a special and very well-received evening of music and poetry for Valentine's Day: *Love Changes Everything*.

March: Sue Batchelor returned with her last ever production from the Cartmel Rockers with hits from all of their previous shows. Sue was heartily applauded by all not only for a very good show in 2023 but for all her hard work in the previous years. Many thanks too must go to her backing group and the soloists but above all to John Iveson without whom we would have had no score.

April: Cartmel Choral Society performed a concert of Easter music by Haydn, Schubert, Mozart and Dvorák and this was followed on Easter Monday by Adrian Self's popular annual organ recital.

June: The King's School Macclesfield returned with not one but two well-rehearsed and enthusiastic school choirs. The excellent singing was only challenged after the very last note by the onset of an astonishingly fierce thunderstorm.

July: the Furness Bach Choir made a welcome return to the Priory celebrating the anniversary of William Byrd and 400 years of the English Choral tradition and later in the month the London Youth Wind Band, sponsored by the Grange Lions Club, made a first and memorably resounding appearance in the Priory.



September: One of the world's leading specialist baroque chamber groups, La Serenissima, made their third appearance in the Priory with Vivaldi's Four Seasons and other works by Vivaldi, Brescianello and Dall'Abaco which included some truly breathtaking solos from Adrian Chandler.

December: Cartmel Choral Society joyously sang out the year with Charpentier and a concert of Christmas music.

Our very grateful thanks go to all of those who sang and played for us so beautifully throughout the year and who helped in the continuing battle to raise funds for the Priory.

Annabel Hunt

Reader's Report

This has been a very busy year in my role of Reader, covering services in my capacity as Deacon and leading the services when the Vicar is away.

During 2023 I have covered the services at Haverthwaite and Finsthwaite on the first Sunday of the month. There is uncertainty as to whether this will still be required once the pastoral reorganisation has been completed, but until then I shall continue taking the services with Communion by Extension.

I have taken funerals in the Priory and at other village churches in the surrounding area; this is an aspect of ministry I particularly enjoy and working with the various funeral directors in the area.

The mid-week service on the first Thursday of the month, with a light lunch continues to thrive, with a separate congregation that is committed to this service. A special thank you needs to be given to the team of 'before and after' helpers who enable this service to run smoothly and successfully.

Tessa Pemberton and I are accredited DBS recruiters, and we are happy to continue in this role. DBS clearances for all PCC members at Staveley and Finsthwaite have been completed - a necessary requirement for PCC members with full voting rights. The Priory PCC DBS clearances will be obtained for willing members after the APCM when we become aware of new PCC members.

The Parish Policies have been created and are kept in the vestry for perusal by anyone wishing to view them.

Dianne Maguire, Licensed Reader

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, John Iveson and Tessa Pemberton and Treasurer, Dr Fiona Smith who work tirelessly on our behalf, together with our Reader Dianne Maguire and Annabel Hunt, PA to the Vicar.

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 throughout 2023. However, the hours of opening now vary as there are simply not enough people to cover from 10am - 4pm every day. However, it is encouraging that new people are coming forward; their faithful service is greatly appreciated by the PCC.

Rita Denby writes:

As I write, Spring is in the air and visitors continue to come to the Priory whatever the weather as we strive to offer a warm welcome to all. This aspect of manning 'the shop' is what makes the job so rewarding and interesting - talking to people from all walks of life, all parts of the UK and further afield.

There are events to be involved in and recently Medieval Cartmel & Christmas in Cartmel brought a great many people into the village and consequently into the Priory. All kinds of fund-raising ideas as well as shop sales were greatly boosted. Importantly though, the shop, like the Priory itself, is all about teamwork and love pure and simple.

Veronica Hargreaves writes, too:

Cartmel Priory is one of the main tourist attractions in the area, bringing in a wide variety of people. I've been volunteering as a "meet and greet" steward for almost 10 years and cover Saturday and Sunday mornings when we make our fortnightly visits. I'm a bit of a chatterbox and love meeting people and finding out about them. There's always something to learn from others, especially those with an interest in religious history or ancient buildings. Children are especially fascinated by the skulls and crossbones, and I love to set them the challenge of finding the loaf of bread. I've made so many friends within the priory community - it's now part of who I am, and I love what I do.

The Wardens are grateful to a small number of the congregation prepared to act as welcomers for services during 2023. It is good to know, also, that there are new faces around and new voices reading the Epistle at the 10.30 service and the lessons at Evensong when required. Thanks, too, to Catherine Bottomley and Elizabeth Walker who faithfully act as Altar Servers.

Welcomers or Sidespersons

8.00am - Matthew Booth, David Bushell, Barrow Gaskarth, David Huggett and Kate Raftry

10.30am – James Bertlin, Gef Bradburn, Bridget Chaplin, John Chaplin, Pat Foulerton, Tiffany Hunt and Valerie Richardson

3.30pm – James Bertlin and Elizabeth Walker

Refreshments served after the 10.30 service give the opportunity to meet together socially. Thanks are due to the group of individuals who organised this week by week at the start of the year and to Jill Bertlin who has now taken over the role on a permanent basis.

Our bell ringers play an important role in the witness of the Priory and Bob Somerset (Tower Captain) has written to give us an insight into their work.

At the Priory, we are a band of eight ringers who ring every Sunday except when the weather prevents us crossing the roof to the ringing chamber. During the year we lost two ringers, due to health and personal reasons. We gained three new ringers, two are in early stages of training and the third decided they could not afford the time to become a ringer. We practise every second and fourth Friday each month. On the first and third Friday we practise at Flookburgh Church.

Sharing ringers across Furness is common. For Sunday services we are typically joined by four ringers from Flookburgh and we in turn ring for Sunday service at Flookburgh. For Friday practice we welcome ringers from Flookburgh, Milnthorpe and Ulverston. We can have twelve or more attending a practice. This helps improve our learners who can ring with experienced ringers. Priory ringers



also ring at other towers, Ulverston, Dalton, towers in Furness and down into Lancashire. Some have rung in towers in USA and Ireland.

At the Priory we ring *Call Changes and Methods*. To ring *Call Changes* the conductor calls the bells to change the order of ringing. In *Method ringing* each bell has a set pattern to follow. The conductor calls the method by name, each bell follows its pattern but can be called to change by the command "Bob" or "Single". Yes, we are a strange lot! We practise both *Call Changes and Methods* each Friday, and our aim is to expand our knowledge of new methods and to enable more ringers to become conductors. This way we will ensure younger ringers will be able to replace those of us who can no longer climb the stairs to the ringing chamber! Sunday ringing is not a practice, ringing must be best quality.

Ringling at the Priory for:

Ten Weddings, King's Coronation, Branch meeting for Furness Branch of Lancashire Association of Change Ringers (LACR) Christmas Services, each Sunday before the 10.30am service and New Year's Eve.

Ringers

8 ringers registered with LACR as Cartmel Priory ringers.

2 ringers, learning to ring but not registered.

8 LACR ringers from other towers who ring regularly both on practice nights and for some Sunday services.

Events

Cartmel Priory Ringing Chamber Open Day, 30th September 2023.

Bob also says that the Band is concerned about the ongoing maintenance of the bells and the tower. No doubt we shall hear more about that in the future. (MI)

Weekly Lesson Readers

Thank you to all those who offer their services as readers of the Epistle at the service of Choral Eucharist and those who also fulfil the task at the occasional Evensong. There are twenty-two volunteers in total and over the liturgical year there is a seasonal rhythm to the readings in the Lectionary, with corresponding colours of the vestments. As John Shippen would say, the readings provide a 'slow-moving clock of our physical, mental and social being, as significant as the first snowdrops or the last conkers'.



Mary Iveson

The Priory Church Building and Fabric

Tessa Pemberton (Warden) writes:

In order to preserve the building, the Priory Church has again remained heated throughout the year, but of financial necessity thermostats have been turned down even further. Rugs are provided, and congregants encouraged to 'wrap up warm'.

I am grateful to David Huggett for his continuing help and support in dealing with the demands of a Grade 1 listed building - it has been a very steep learning curve.

The following have been actioned this year:

1. A representative from Ecclesiastical Insurers assessed the Priory in October 2023 with the aim of reducing the risk of loss or damage to the property, or to reduce the risk of injury to employees or other persons on the premises
2. The boilers have been serviced
3. Bowker's (building services engineers) from Morecambe have given a quote for replacement of the main electrical panel and distribution board replacement plus new switching in the main cupboard
4. PAT testing has been completed
5. Debris netting has been installed in the nave
6. The Quinquennial inspection by the architect is due in March 2024
7. Fire extinguishers and clock have been serviced
8. Headless Cross wall has been repaired with boulders rather than rebuilding the stone wall. It is hoped this will prove a more permanent solution.



9. King Charles II Coat of Arms has been restored

10. Overgrown paths around the priory have been cleared and this will now be scheduled as regular maintenance

Thanks go to Josh Hanson for his commitment to the winding of the clock.

The proposed 'new build' project is not at a standstill, but of necessity is a work in progress.

Electoral Roll

Sandie Mills, our Electoral Roll Officer reported at the APCM 2023 the following information:
Total number on roll: 156

105 people are non-resident in the parish and 51 are resident

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 those on 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 eight times during 2023 and the Standing Committee three times, both in the Priory, but also, more frequently in the Priory School – for which the PCC is very grateful.

Minutes of meetings can be found in the Priory.

Safeguarding & GDPR Officer Mrs Dianne Maguire

PPC members who have served at any time during 2023 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 (until April 2026)

Wardens: Mr John Iveson (Vice chairman)

Mrs Tessa Pemberton

Dr Fiona Smith (Treasurer)

Elected members:

Mr James Bertlin

Mr Matthew Booth (until April 2024)

Mrs Pat Foulerton

Mr David Huggett

Mrs Judy Johnson (until April 2024)

Mrs Jill Lucas (until April 2024) Resigned January 2024

Mrs Valerie Richardson, representative on Deanery Synod (until April 2026)

In attendance:

Ms Annabel Hunt PA to the Vicar

Mrs Mary Iveson PCC Secretary

Mary Iveson (PCC Secretary) March 2024