

# Parish Profile

## Team Rector for the Parish of Dunstable

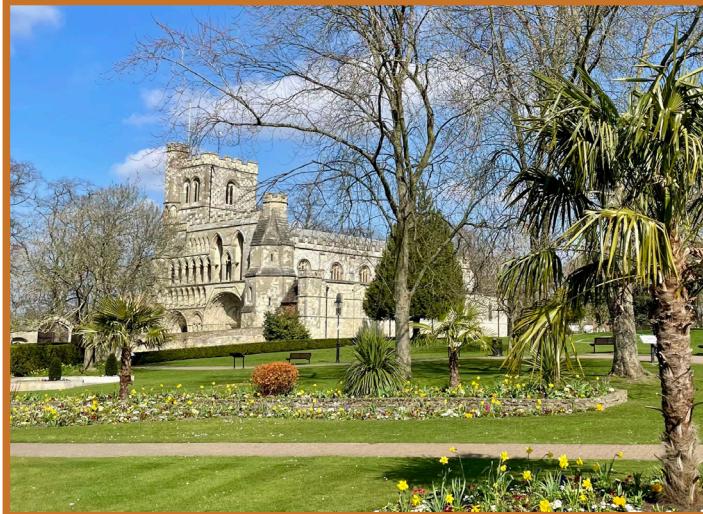


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# Welcome to Dunstable Parish and The Priory Church

## Hello and Welcome!



Thank you for your interest in the role of Team Rector in our market town of Dunstable. As will become clear, the role is based at the Priory Church of St Peter and the successful candidate will be the incumbent of this Church, as well as Team Rector.

There are three churches in the Parish which are linked together – The Priory Church of St Peter, St Augustine's and St Fremund the Martyr.

## Could you be our new Team Rector?

### The Role

#### Who are we looking for?

As Team Rector, you will be based at the Priory Church and will lead the church that is based there.

We are seeking a person who would support the broadly traditional and yet evolving form of worship at the church. Music has always had a significant place in the life of the church – the organ is appreciated as is the ministry of the growing choir.

We are looking for a person who will teach and develop us as an outward looking church in the community. We are looking for a person who will meet the pastoral needs of the church (including home visits) and who seeks to maintain the growth that the church has experienced over recent periods. Our MAP was created with a growth mindset at its centre, and sets out a clear and purposeful framework for growth — both numerical growth and spiritual growth. We are looking for someone who will work with us, lead us and help us achieve that growth.

As Team Rector (whilst only being 25% of the role) we are seeking a person who would welcome the opportunity to work with two experienced colleagues in leading Christian witness and outreach to the population of Dunstable. The Rector is invited to be the Mayor's Chaplain and lead prayers at civic occasions, such as Remembrance Sunday.

This is an exciting time to join us, to lead the Parish forward in further developing ecumenical and community links, strengthening involvement and participation across the three churches and in the wider community.

## Your Key Qualities

- Preach in a faithful way that supports, encourages, develops and challenges everyone in differing stages of their journey with God and the faith.
- The ability to lead, manage, encourage and work collaboratively with the ministry team, church wardens and parish office staff and congregations across the Parish in a shared vision.
- Enjoy diverse worship styles – each church is different!
- An interest in developing working with families, young children and youth.
- Enabler who will identify and develop gifts in people of all ages.
- Good communicator, approachable, kind and compassionate.
- Team player who prefers to be collaborative.
- Embrace being visible across the three churches.

## Living in Love and Faith (LLF)

In 2023 the parish engaged prayerfully with the Living in Love and Faith course, creating space for careful listening, respectful conversation, and shared discernment. Building on this journey, in 2024 the PCC passed a resolution to support clergy who wish to offer prayers for the blessing of same-sex couples, in line with the Church of England's current provision.

As a parish we seek to be inclusive and welcoming, committed to hospitality and the dignity of every person, and to enabling people of all backgrounds and life stories to participate fully in the life of the Church. We would warmly welcome a Team Rector who is able to lead with confidence and compassion within this context, holding the parish's commitment to welcome, inclusion, and pastoral generosity at the heart of their ministry.

## Our commitment to you

- We assure you of the warmest of welcomes in our Church family
- We look forward to receiving your ministry, and sharing our stories with you
- We offer you our commitment, our loyalty, our hard work and our support

## Our Congregation

### A growing congregation of all age groups

Our previous Rector took up post after a long interregnum in the parish and then Covid caused the country to go into lockdown. When this ended the congregation - who had been worshipping virtually- started to return as well as those who wanted to reconnect with the church.

- The choir reformed, bringing live music back to services and focusing on youth engagement. Our choir members are dedicated, attending weekly practices and performing at the 9:30 Sunday service.
- Families are warmly welcomed, with a special area set up for children to enjoy activities during services. A great feature of Sunday worship is celebrating the themed artwork created by the children.
- Weekday visitors can attend a Thursday Eucharist at 10:00 am, where everyone receives a warm welcome.
- Regular open days and coffee mornings ensure visitors are greeted personally and feel part of the community. These opportunities for worship and fellowship have encouraged new people of all ages to join the electoral roll.
- As part of our Mission Action Plan, Morning Prayer is being reintroduced—initially online up to three times a week—with plans to open the church during these times for shared prayer.

## A place of Christian prayer, worship and pilgrimage for nine centuries

The church's rich history is detailed elsewhere in this profile, so we won't repeat it here. Built nearly 900 years ago, it has witnessed many changes over the centuries. Today, as part of the Church of England, it remains true to its original purpose—a centre for prayer, worship, and pilgrimage.



- Open Church days allow visitors to:
  - Explore the building and discover its history.
  - Experience moments of stillness for reflection and prayer.
- Visitors come from far and wide—some for historical interest, others for spiritual reasons.
- All are warmly welcomed by a dedicated team of volunteers
- The Priory thrives as a vibrant and lively place, continuing its 900-year tradition at the heart of the town's life.

## Committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults

The PCC has adopted the Parish Safeguarding online Dashboard which gives assurance to the PCC that they are complying with statutory requirements and Church of England policies. We prioritise safeguarding, its policy, process and practice, and ensure all training and safer recruitment processes follow the Church of England guidelines.

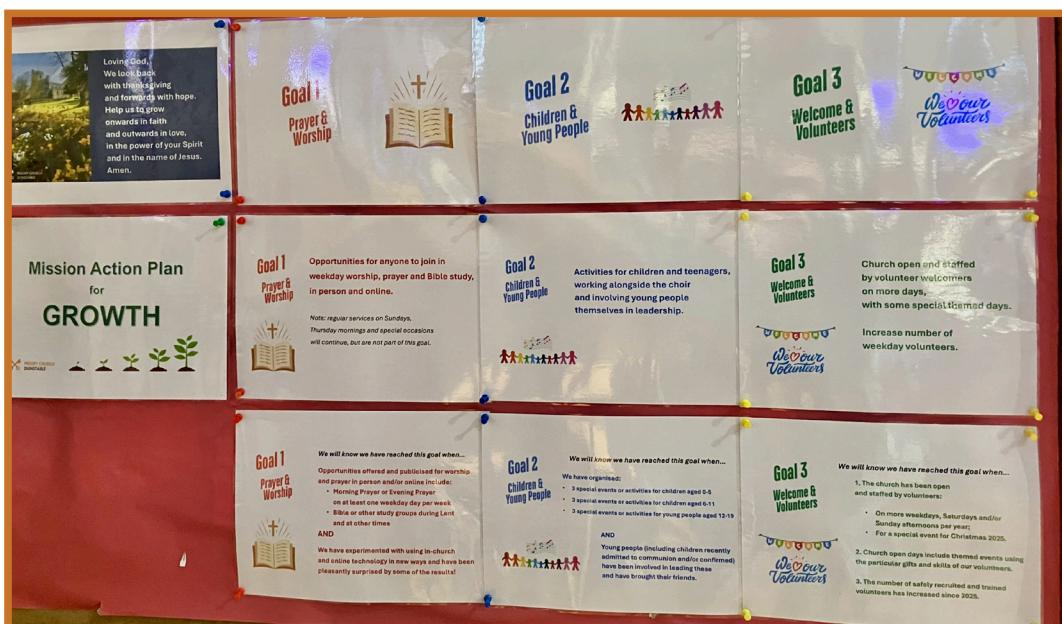
The Parish of Dunstable values everyone and Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We aim to be a Parish where everyone feels safe and able to speak up. The role of the Rector is critical in leading by example to ensure best practice and a clear positive safeguarding culture.

- Full commitment to compliance with the latest safeguarding regulations.
- Churchwardens are required to complete online training at Foundation and Leadership levels, as well as Modern Slavery awareness.
- Each church in the parish has its own District Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Volunteers wear lanyards displaying appropriate safeguarding contact numbers.
- The Parish Administrator has recently taken on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer. Appropriate training for the Parish Safeguarding Officer will be undertaken in the new year. In the interim, safeguarding concerns can be reported directly to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

## Our MAP for St Peter's

In 2025 we refreshed our Mission Action Plan (MAP) as part of a period of reflection and discernment, looking ahead to the future life and mission of St Peter's. The MAP sets out a clear and purposeful framework for growth and for deepening our worship, discipleship, and service to the town of Dunstable. It provides a practical guide for our ministry and outreach during the vacancy, while also offering a strong foundation on which our new Team Rector can build.

We recognise that a new incumbent will bring fresh vision, gifts, and priorities, and we see this MAP not as a fixed destination but as a living document. We look forward to developing a clear vision statement and a refreshed MAP collaboratively with our new Team Rector, shaped by prayer, discernment, and shared leadership.



## Mission Objectives & Goals

### Prayer and Worship

- Provide regular opportunities for worship, prayer, and Bible study, both in person and online.
- Foster spiritual growth and encourage participation across all age groups.

### Children and Young People

- Develop activities and leadership opportunities for children and teenagers.
- Strengthen links with local schools and support the spiritual development of young people.

### Welcome and Volunteering

- Create a culture of welcome, ensuring all visitors and congregation members feel valued.
- Increase the number of safely recruited and trained volunteers to support church activities and outreach.

## GOAL 1: Prayer and worship

Opportunities for anyone to join in weekday worship, prayer and Bible study in person and online.

*We will know we have reached this goal when:*

Opportunities offered and publicised for worship and prayer in person and/or online include:

- Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer on at least one weekday per week.
- Bible or other study groups during Lent and at other times.
- We have experimented with using in-church and online technology in new ways and have been pleasantly surprised by some of the results.

## GOAL 2: Children and young people

Activities for children and teenagers, working alongside the choir and involving young people themselves in leadership.

*We will know we have reached this goal when we have organised:*

- Three special events or activities for children aged 0-5.
- Three special events or activities for children aged 6-11.
- Three special events of activities aged 12-19.
- Young people (including children recently admitted to communion and/or confirmed) have been involved in leading these and have brought their friends.

**Priory Tots  
At Christmas**

**Tuesday 23rd December  
3pm in the Church Hall**

**An event with Stable & Lights  
to celebrate the birth of Jesus**

**All children are welcome,  
from babies to older ones**



## GOAL 3: Welcome and volunteers

Welcome leads to more volunteers, and more volunteers means more people to welcome others.



*We will know we have reached this goal when:*

- The church is open and staffed by volunteers on:
  - more weekdays and/or Saturdays/Sunday afternoons per year.
  - we hold a special Christmas event.
- Church open days include themed events using the particular gifts and skills of our volunteers.
- The number of safely recruited and trained weekday volunteers has increased since 2025.
- The church has been open and staffed by volunteers on more days in 2026 than in 2025, with some special themed days.

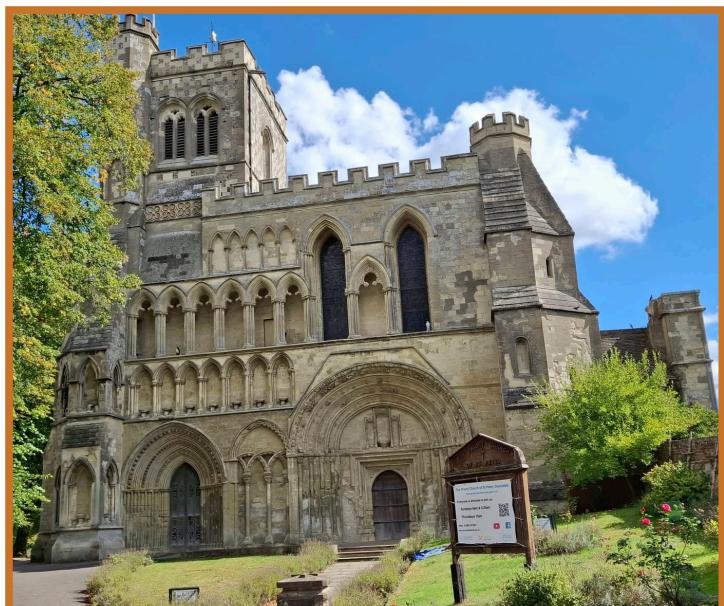
## Introducing our churches

### Our Church Family

The Church of England parish of Dunstable is part of the Dunstable Team Ministry in the Diocese of St Alban's and includes three churches.

#### The Priory Church of St Peter

The Priory Church stands at the heart of Dunstable's history and faith and has a rich historical legacy. With origins dating back to the early 12th century, it has played a pivotal role in the town's development and in significant moments of English history.



- The main parish church, historically a Priory, was dedicated to St Peter and St Paul.
- Founded by King Henry I in 1132 as an Augustinian priory to support the new market town of Dunstable at the junction of Watling Street and the Icknield Way.
- Built as a large, cathedral-sized complex, the canons were also responsible for governing the town.
- The Priory church was consecrated in 1213 and became a major religious house hosting notable historical figures.
- In 1290, the funeral cortège of Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward I, rested overnight at the Priory; Edward I ordered an Eleanor Cross to be erected outside to mark the spot.
- In 1533, the Priory hosted the court that annulled Henry VIII's first marriage—a key step toward England's break with Rome.
- Surrendered to the King in January 1540 during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, most monastic buildings were demolished, but the nave survived as the parish church for local townspeople.

Today, the Priory Church of St Peter serves as the active parish church for Dunstable and is a Grade I listed building. Visitors can explore the site of the former monastic buildings and Lady Chapel, marked out in the Priory Gardens.

### St Augustine of Canterbury Church

In 1956 Canon Orton saw the need for a new church on Downside as a daughter church of the Priory, because there were a lot of new houses being built. St Augustine's story began the year later in 1957 with a small group meeting in a tearoom behind what is now the Highwayman pub on Downside.



Back then, baptisms were done with a mixing bowl, and services were moved from a conservatory to a works canteen before a plot on Oakwood Avenue was blessed in 1959. A wooden cross went up, and the first church building was dedicated to St Augustine that September, and so the St Augustine's church was built on the Downside Estate serving the south of the town.

As the congregation grew, so did the need for space — extensions, a Portakabin office, and eventually a new building in 1992. Today, that modern, multi-purpose space stands as a welcoming hub for worship and community, rooted in humble beginnings and guided by the mission “to be an inclusive worshipping community that seeks to serve others”.

In response to changing local needs St Augustine’s has worked with asylum seekers, set up and run a Community café and since January 2022 “Renew 26”, which seeks to support the mental health of all.

## St Fremund the Martyr

St Fremund’s Church was formally dedicated on 11 May 1968 by the Bishop of St Albans, marking the beginning of a new chapter for a congregation whose roots lay in services once held at Beecroft School. Many of those early worshippers had previously belonged to Christ Church on High Street North in Dunstable, which had recently closed, and together they carried their faith into this new home.

Over the years, the church has grown alongside its community, undergoing three extensions to meet the needs of its congregation.



The first addition was a modest bungalow, originally built to house the priest-in-charge. In 1986, this building was transformed into a church hall, creating a welcoming space for fellowship, activities, and gatherings. We currently enjoy a fair amount of regular and one-off bookings.

Today, the churchwardens and the District Church Council remain dedicated to preserving the building with care and attention. Their efforts are complemented by members of the congregation, who tend the surrounding gardens—lawns bordered with small trees and shrubs including a consecrated Garden of Remembrance—ensuring that the church grounds reflect the same spirit of devotion and stewardship found within its walls.

## Our Ministry Team

Our ministry team serves the Parish of Dunstable through three distinct yet closely connected churches. Together we are committed to proclaiming the Gospel and serving our town, and we are eager to deepen our team spirit and discover new ways of working more closely together with our future Team Rector.

Three churches make up the team, each with its own character and style of worship.

- Shared governance: people from all three churches serve on the PCC. Each church also has a District Church Council (DCC) that meets four times a year to shape ministry and mission in its district.
- Local care & outreach: every church prioritises pastoral care for people in its own district while contributing to parish wide outreach. for example through initiatives such as the local Foodbanks and support for asylum seekers.



- Clergy team: the ministry team comprises a Team Rector based at the Priory Church, a Team Vicar (Rev Ricky Turner) at St Augustine's, and a Team Vicar (Rev Tim Davis) at St Fremund's who also serves as a school chaplain one day a week at Manshead Academy and one day a week at All Saints Academy.
- Reader and lay leadership: we have a Reader based at St Augustine's who works across the team, and each church has two Parish Churchwardens who support one another across the parish.
- Weekly collaboration: clergy and our Parish Administrator meet weekly to pray, plan and support one another in ministry and mission. Our Parish Administrator is an employee of the parish and works five mornings a week to support the administration of the church.

[A map of the parish can be found using this link.](#)

This map shows the most recent demographic information for the population of Dunstable in addition to boundary data. The Priory is the hub of much parish activity and hosts a number of established teams that a new Team Rector will be invited to lead and nurture. These teams are not only active and committed, but they exist to equip the parish for ministry, discipleship, and service.

During the pandemic a fourth congregation (formerly St Katherine's, an LEP with the URC) underwent a pastoral reorganisation and the Anglican partnership ended; that congregation continues as an active United Reformed Church.

We hope our future Team Rector will find joy in encouraging these teams, equipping us to grow in confidence, shaping vision, and helping us deepen our discipleship. Together we long to strengthen our shared life across Dunstable, building on what is already flourishing and exploring fresh opportunities for mission and ministry.

## Parish Reader

Our Parish Lay Reader (Keith King) was Admitted as Licensed Reader in September 2023. He has proved to be a gift to us. Primarily based at St Augustine's Church, he works with the Worship group to plan and deliver the All-Age Services, preaches at Sunday Services across the Parish. He leads Worship at our monthly Compline and fortnightly House group.



## Music

### Music at the Heart of the Priory Church

Music plays a vital role in the life and worship of the Priory Church, enriching our services and connecting us with the wider community.

- Post Covid we have concentrated on rebuilding our choir and we now have over twenty children, teens, and adults sing in our choir for Sunday services and special events such as Remembrance, Carol Services, Candlemas, Holy Week, and Easter.
- The choir is led by professional conductor and vocal coach Chloe Allison, supported by our talented organist, Martin Hart.
- Choir members sing confidently in up to three parts, greatly enhancing the quality of worship.
- Since Chloe joined in September 2023 through a partnership with St Martin's-in-the-Fields, the choir has grown, a scholarship scheme launched, volunteers joined, and outreach initiatives begun, raising standards significantly.
- Musical education is a priority: choristers learn music theory during weekly practices, and teenage choral scholars—funded by the Jane Cart Trust—receive individual lessons and work toward exams. The scholarship programme is funded for this academic year. We plan to apply for continued support for future years, though this is not guaranteed.
- Recruitment of choristers and adult singers continues, strengthened by a new partnership with St Alban's Cathedral.



- The Priory boasts a fine 3-manual Norman and Beard organ (1913), recently cleaned and overhauled at a cost of around £40K. While some minor work is recommended, the organ is in excellent condition and maintained through regular tuning and servicing.

## Music Outreach



For the past two years, we've hosted outreach events at the Priory Church, welcoming local primary school children for singing workshops and performances. This year, we are continuing these events in partnership with St Albans Cathedral. Most of our singers have no other access to musical education beyond our provision.

We are also creating new opportunities for our choir. This year, the choral scholars and older choristers will join the Selwyn College Chapel Choir for an evensong and perform a Holy Week concert at St Albans Cathedral. The new incumbent would ideally recognise the valuable contribution to worship that a choir like ours can make, and also be aware of the important part it plays in the Dunstable community more widely.

## The Pattern of Current Sunday Services at the Priory

The full attendance statistics can be found on the Diocese of St Albans website.

[This is the link to the full data on the St. Albans website.](#) Select *Dunstable, Priory Church of St. Peter* from the dropdown list.

## Statistics Summary

Since the end of Pandemic, our usual Sunday attendance and Electoral role have been growing.

Year	Electoral role of Parish	Usual Sunday Attendance
2021	198	Not Recorded
2022	207	80
2023	220	86
2024	220	95

## Worship Services Overview

The Priory Church of Saint Peter Dunstable holds a variety of services to foster spiritual growth and community worship among its congregation.

## Sunday Morning Services

Typically, two distinct services are offered each Sunday morning:

### 8:00 Said Eucharist Service:

A quiet service designed for reflection and communion, providing a peaceful start to the day.

### 9:30 Sung Eucharist Service:

This service features hymns sung by our expanding congregation, accompanied by our exceptional choir, creating a vibrant atmosphere of praise. Occasionally, an All Team Service takes place at 10:00, bringing together worshippers from all three churches in the team for a shared act of worship.

## Thursday Morning Service

On Thursday mornings, a 10:00 Eucharist is held, offering another opportunity for prayer and fellowship during the week.

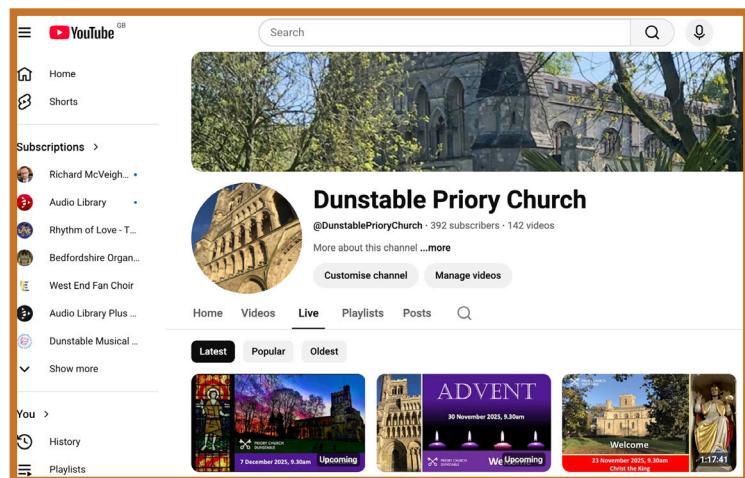
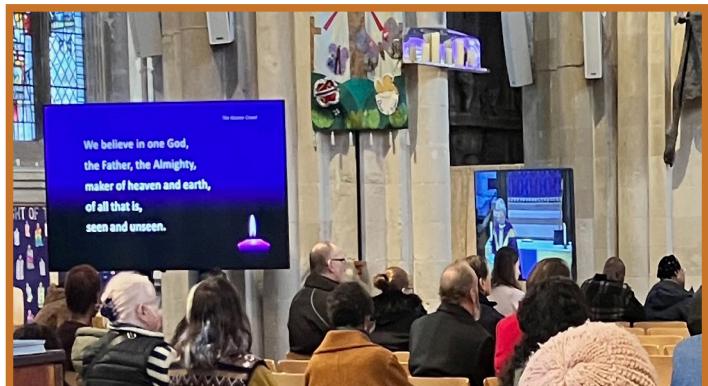
## Special Services

The church takes particular joy in celebrating the Harvest Festival, which marks the season of thanksgiving for the year's crops. Additionally, the Remembrance Service in November provides an important occasion. Our Carol Services regularly attract over 120 adults plus children. A number of people who are not regular churchgoers, but see the Priory as an integral part of the town, attend these services every year.

## Use of Technology

When the COVID pandemic forced the Priory (like many churches) to move to online worship, we invested in a lot of the state-of-the-art technology.

We installed a comprehensive WiFi and audio system, a powerful Epson projector with a drop-down screen, six CleverTouch Live monitors on movable trolleys and a purpose built PC within its own portable cabinet to control them all. This has enabled us to live-stream our services via our YouTube channel.



[This is a link to our channel.](#)

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who operate and care for the system. They support the clergy with any preparation of content necessary.

In addition, the intelligent CleverTouch monitors allow us to create and display content for special events like our Christmas Tree Festival, Bedfordshire Day and Heritage Days.

We currently have 400+ subscribers to our YouTube channel and a typical Sunday Communion worship service gets watched about 120 times.

Some special events get far higher audiences; for example our memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II was watched 700 times, and the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire's Annual Thanksgiving Service 340 times.

## The Priory Church, its connection with the town and Charities

### Why the Priory is important to the town and 2033

For over 800 years the Priory Church of St Peter has been a central part of life in Dunstable, as a place of worship and as a community venue playing a part in numerous historical events. Alongside the surrounding Priory Gardens and the nearby Priory House (originally a guest house for pilgrims) they are central to the modern town's community events and heritage.

- The year 2033 marks the 500th anniversary of the annulment of Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon (May 1533). This milestone offers a major opportunity for Dunstable and the Priory Church to commemorate a pivotal event in English history. Celebrations will highlight the Priory's unique role and promote heritage tourism in the area.
- We plan on revising an application for Heritage Lottery funding to appropriately mark this event of national significance.
- Proposed events and activities will mirror the successful 800th anniversary of the Priory's dedication in 2013, including:
  - Guided walks
  - Concerts
  - Historical exhibitions and events
- The anniversary aims to educate new generations about this transformative moment in local and national history.
- The Priory will serve as a living classroom, bringing history to life for visitors and the community.

### Heritage Days

This free annual event brings Dunstable's history to life with heritage activities across the town. The Priory Church opens for guided tours and interactive displays, sharing the story of its medieval building. Visits to the church, both for young people and adults are arranged by the Priory's historian and volunteers to share the very rich history of the building. School visits include hands-on RE activities, helping children experience church life.

## Bedfordshire Day

Bedfordshire Day, celebrated on 28th November (John Bunyan's birthday), honours the unique heritage and history of Bedfordshire. In 2025 we hosted free events, talks and displays celebrating the 60th anniversary of the discovery of the Dunstable Swan Jewel, a unique brooch lost in Medieval Dunstable and found at an archaeological dig in 1965. The day is organized by the Town Guides and celebrates local history through talks, displays, demonstrations and books. This community event is popular and well supported with refreshments for all served by church volunteers throughout the day.



## Dunstable Charities

The Association of Dunstable Charities is the umbrella for six Dunstable charities; The Chew's Foundation, Ashton Almshouse Charity, Ashton Schools Foundation, Dunstable Poor's Land Charity, Blandina Marshe and Mary Lockington Charities. The constitution of these charities (with the exception of Dunstable Poor's Land Charity) requires the Rector to be an ex officio governor.

All the charities meet two to three times a year and the meetings are normally held in March (which is when the budgets are set) and then again typically in June and November. However, four of these meeting run consecutively after one another so it is just one attendance for two meetings on the same day.

## The Rectory

Welcome to 8 Furness Avenue Dunstable, the Rectory for the Priory Church of St Peter which is in the south-central part of the town a short 10-minute walk from the Priory Church itself. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac this lovely detached home is ideal for a family.





There is an entrance hall with a small cloak room. Off the hallway there is a study, a small downstairs toilet, a big sitting room and dining area looking out onto a lovely garden. The kitchen and utility room is off the dining area ideal for gatherings and meetings and so on.

Upstairs there are 4 spacious bedrooms and a large family bathroom. There is also plenty of storage. There is a driveway at the front of the house with ample room for 3 vehicles. There is also a garden at the side. A heat pump was fitted at the Rectory by the diocese as part of their carbon neutral targets.



## Schools

There are three church schools in the parish (two Primary and one Secondary) and we have very strong links with many of the education institutions here in Dunstable. Ashton St Peter's and St Augustine's are Primary schools, and Manshead Academy is a Secondary school. We also have solid but informal ties to Priory Academy (year 5 - year 11) as well as Beecroft Academy (another Primary school). Although not technically within the parish, All Saints Academy also has strong links to us as our School Chaplain is licensed for that liaison role, and we have a significant amount of families living in the parish who attend there.

### Ashton St Peter's Church of England VA - Primary

The Priory Church enjoys a close and meaningful relationship with Ashton St Peter's, a voluntary aided primary school. This partnership strengthens the spiritual life of both the school and the parish.

[This is the link to the school's website.](#)

- The Rector leads regular Collective Worship assemblies at the school.
- There are half-termly visits by pupils to the Priory for services, collaboratively planned and led by church and school.
- The church is used as part of the school curriculum and for end-of-term services, reinforcing school-church links.
- Ashton St Peter's has a strong faith presence and attracts many practising Christian families from various denominations, as well as other faiths.



- Fortnightly prayer meetings are held on school premises.
- The Rector serves as a member of the school's governing body, focusing on pupils' spiritual development and acts as a link to the charitable foundation supporting the school, playing a vital role in its daily life.
- The Chair of Governors is one of the churchwardens, providing excellent support for the school and the Rector's involvement.

## St Augustine's Academy - Primary

- BBC News - Mr Smart and Christmas Wonderland
- Vision and Ethos
- Christian Values
- Collective Worship
- Equality
- British Values
- Governance and Governors
- Policies
- Admissions
- Staffing
- SIAMS (Church School)
- Ofsted and Parentview

**Our School**



St Augustine's Academy has undergone significant development in recent years. It became a Church of England school in 2012 and converted to a primary academy in 2014. St Augustine's Academy has developed a strong and enduring relationship with St Augustine's Church and the wider parish. This collaboration enriches worship, education, and community life.

[This is a link to the school's website.](#)

- The school maintains close ties with St Augustine's Church and the Diocese of St Albans through governance and regular engagement.
- The Team Vicar plays an active role, leading collective worship fortnightly and supporting staff and pupils throughout the year and serves as an ex-officio member of the Governing Body and leads worship in the school's Forest School area.
- The Team Vicar regularly leads collective worship at St Augustine's Church and participates in special services such as the Pop Nativity on Christmas Eve and Messy Church.
- All year groups visit St Augustine's Church each term for RE Active Church, combining interactive activities with worship to explore faith in age-appropriate ways.
- SIAMS inspection (June 2023) graded the Academy as Excellent, highlighting its inclusive Christian vision and strong partnership with the parish.
- This collaboration continues to enrich both school and church, enabling pupils, staff, and families to flourish academically, socially, and spiritually.

## Manshead & All Saints Academies - Secondary

The vicar of St Fremund's is also the school chaplain at both Manshead and All Saints Academies and typically spends one day a week in each establishment. Both are church schools but are part of different trusts. The Chaplains day is typically spent by building relationships with staff and students, delivering Collective Worship, offering relevant lesson support, and assisting the pastoral support staff with one-to-one work with students as well as responding to significant events that sometimes occur.

[This is a link to Manshead's website.](#)

[This is a link to All Saints' website.](#)

# The PCC & DCCs

## PCC

The Dunstable Parish is a Team Parish that comprises of three Church of England churches – Priory Church of St Peter and two churches on the perimeters of Dunstable; St Fremund's Church (North West Dunstable) and St Augustine's Church (South Dunstable). Together they form a Parochial Church Council (PCC), with the Churchwardens representing their individual churches. There are a further 3 lay representatives from each DCC.

We understand that the primary object of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, and that the statutory function of the PCC is to co-operate with its ministers in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and the St Peter's DCC fully support those aims and objectives.

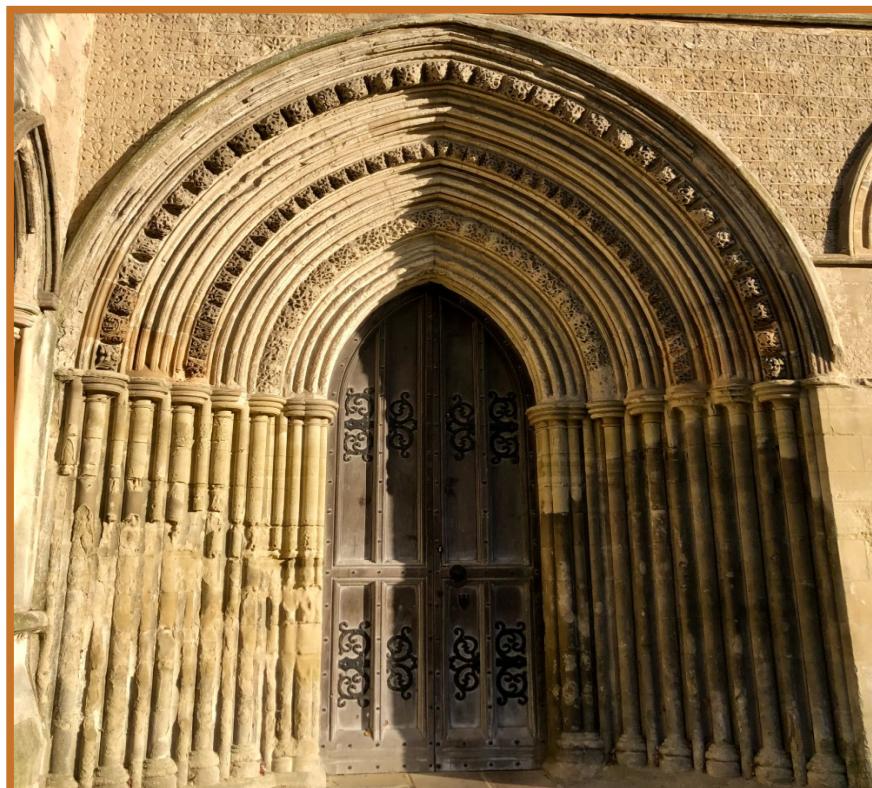
It is the role of the PCC to manage and oversee the function of the Parish as a single cohesive unit, supporting and allocating the use of the ministerial and other resources and ensuring their proper maintenance alongside the control of finances. An Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Meeting of Parishioners is held after the Annual District Church Meetings.

## DCC

The District Church Councils for each church are responsible for the specific concerns, spiritual, worshipping and welfare of their individual church and community within the area in which it resides. Each DCC then feeds into the PCC who work with the clergy team on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The DCCs function as delegated committees of the Parish.

## The Quinquennial Report

Our last inspection was in 2021 so the next is due in 2026. Of the 12 Category 1 items only one remains to be resolved (access ladder to the bell tower needs to be replaced). Action on this is planned for Spring 2026.



Some of the important highlights of the work recently done or planned on the church buildings includes:

- Asbestos removal from boiler room completed so allowing electrical inspection and subsequent certification and reinsurance.
- Some stonework needs attention. The south turret needs some attention and we will seek advice on this during the next inspection.
- We have an on-going issue with pigeons and estimates are being sought for deterrent measures for West frontal.
- The heating has been maintained and new controls installed that allow system to be operated from anywhere with an internet connection.

There are long-term aspirations to replace the floor level heating pipes and associated trip hazards with an underfloor heating system. We have a fabric committee who are very active in completing any minor repairs and supporting churchwardens in their tasks.

## Finance

- We currently have two church treasurers and a St Peter's & PCC treasurer, who complete the accounts on a regular and timely basis. Reporting deadlines have been met for many years now, with last year's Charity Commission being updated for 2024 before the end of March.
- Parish Share was paid in full for many years prior to 2024. During the year St Fremund's had a major roof leak leading to lost revenue from Hall Hire. Limited reserves mean they paid 50% of their quota in 2024 and nearer to 60% this year. Their share is 16% of the total PCC.
- St Peter's and St Augustine's churches have made significant investment in technology over the last couple of years and this has been funded by legacies and grants.
- St Peter's had a significant surplus of £92k due to restricted legacies in the year.
- Music continues to thrive and is funded partly by a legacy from an ex-choir member, and also a grant to cover the Choral Scholarship. We have fund commitments in place to take us into 2026 and we are actively investigating how we can finance the choir beyond 2026.

<b>RESTRICTED 2024</b>	<b>Priory Church of St Peter</b>	<b>St Augustine</b>	<b>St Fremund</b>	<b>PCC &amp; Chaplaincy</b>	<b>Total</b>
Legacies, Grants & Investments	121	1	3		125
Expenditure	29	1	5		35
<b>NET RESTRICTED INC/(EXP)</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2024 - GENERAL FUNDS

	Priory Church of St Peter	St Augustines	St Fremund	PCC & Chaplaincy	Total
Income	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
All giving	64	38	17		119
Legacies & Grants	5			4	9
Lettings & Fees	29	30	10	8	77
Fund Raising/Other	4	3	1	18	26
Investments	15	1		1	17
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Parish Share	65	50	13	17	145
Church Running & Maintenance	88	11	9	13	121
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>GENERAL NET INC/(EXP)</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(18)</b>

## BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER 2024

Unrestricted	393	32	13	17	455
Restricted & Endowment	309	3	0	0	312
	702	35	13	17	767

## BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

Owned Property (Currently let but used for Curates)	320
Other Assets & Endowments	42
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>405</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>767</b>

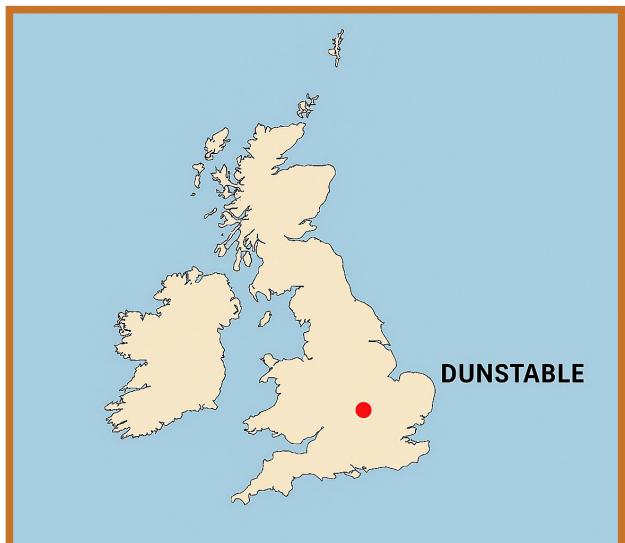
The full PCC accounts for 2024 can be downloaded [here](#)

[THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE - 1130250](#)

## Where to find us

Geographically we are just a few miles from Luton. The M1 motorway runs between the two towns. We are also close to St Albans and Watford, and within easy commuting distance of London and Milton Keynes.

There are also a number of schools and colleges in the town covering all ages from Nursery to Post Sixteen education. Secondary education is offered by Manshead, Queensbury and All Saints schools – each in a different quadrant of the town. There is also a College of Further Education (Central Bedfordshire College) which has various locations in the town. The Luton and Dunstable University Hospital is located next to the M1, between the two towns.



The town is linked to Luton by a guided busway, which runs along the route of an old railway line. Buses are quite frequent. There are several supermarkets within the town boundary. One of these is across the road from the Priory Church!

Over recent years, there has been a significant amount of building in the area – including a West-East bypass, and new estates connected with the nearby township of Houghton Regis, a parish to the NE of the town.

## How to Get In Touch With Us



We have a regular weekly emailed newsletter that is sent to our mailing list of over 400 people.



We also have a very active FaceBook Page with over 1,400 followers. [This is the link to our FaceBook Page](#)



Our YouTube channel has 400 subscribers and we aim to stream live every Sunday 9:30 service. These streams are watched live by an on-line congregation of around 20 people per week but then watched during the week by typically another 30 - 40 people. [This is the link to our YouTube channel](#).



This is the link to the parish website. [dunstableparish.org.uk](http://dunstableparish.org.uk)  
[This is the link to A Church Near You website](#)



Our email address is [dunstableparish@gmail.com](mailto:dunstableparish@gmail.com)

*We hope you have enjoyed reading our Parish profile and would want to come and join us!*