

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY

Registered Charity No 1129541

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**AND**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**OF THE**  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

**RECTOR:**

Canon S. C. Cowling MA  
The Rectory  
Bolton Abbey  
Skipton  
North Yorkshire  
BD23 6AL

**BANKERS:**

Santander UK plc  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L30 4GB

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

A. D. Barker  
Chartered Accountant  
Barnhill  
Wetherby Road  
Collingham  
West Yorkshire  
LS22 5AY

# **PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2017**

### **1 Administrative Information.**

The Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert is situated in the village of Bolton Abbey. It is part of the Diocese of Leeds within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Church Office, Bolton Abbey, Skipton, BD23 6AL.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served since the AGM in 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

#### **Clergy**

Canon S .C. Cowling  
Revd J. M. F. Cain

Rector. Chairman .  
Assistant Curate

#### **Churchwardens**

Mr C. P. Middleton  
Mr M. Hey

#### **Diocesan Synod Representative**

Mr A. D. Hartley

#### **Deanery Synod Representatives**

Mr T. Cantlow  
Mr A. D. Hartley

#### **Honorary Member (Non-voting)**

Duke of Devonshire

Patron

#### **Elected Lay Representatives**

Mrs E. Adams-Lambert  
Mrs S. Barker – Dep Churchwarden  
Mrs L. Bartlett – Finance/Deputy Sec.  
Mr A. Carr  
Mrs E. Clayton  
Mr B. J. Cody – Dep Churchwarden  
Mrs A. E. Hartley  
Mr M. J. R. Heatley – PCC Treasurer

Mr P. Lambert  
Mr J. Laycock  
Mr K .C. Simpson  
Mr N. A. Stubbs  
Mrs S. Stubbs – PCC Secretary

### **2 Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

### **3 Mission Statement.**

A community seeking to live well with God, gathered around Jesus Christ in prayer and fellowship, and committed to welcome, worship and witness.

### **4 Church Attendance**

- a** There are 221 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. Of these approximately 6% live in the parish of Bolton Abbey, 54% in Addingham, Ilkley and Burley-in-Wharfedale, 12.6% in Skipton and Grassington, 9% in Keighley, Colne and Burnley, 7% in Otley, Menston, Guiseley and Bingley, 5% in Harrogate and Leeds and 3% further afield.
- b** During 2017 15 children and 2 adults were baptised in the Priory Church, 3 children and 2 adults were confirmed, 23 couples were married; there were 4 grave burials, 10 interments of cremated remains, 4 memorial services and 10 funerals.

### **5. Review of the Year**

With a new lighting system successfully installed in 2016, in 2017 the PCC's attention turned to the heating. The existing system, which comprises two LPG-fired warm air blowers, supplemented by a number of high level radiant electric heaters is reaching the end of its life: deterioration of the wiring means that approximately half of the radiant heaters no longer work; the warm air blowers are becoming increasingly unreliable and the PCC is heavily dependent on the time and effort of churchwarden Matt Hey to keep them functioning. Following some preliminary advice from the Priory's Architect, Clive England, the PCC undertook a competitive tendering exercise and appointed TGA Consulting Engineers to advise on options and carry out design work. A feasibility study examined a number of options and the PCC are promoting a project that includes an element of renewable energy - ground-source heat from deep boreholes.

Extensive development work was completed on this option during the year, which involved archaeologists, ecologists, and ground-source heat specialist contractors, working alongside architect, engineer, and the PCC Works Committee. At the close of the year we are busy working to secure the necessary consents to undertake the work; in 2018 we will undertake a fundraising effort, and the PCC hopes to be in a position to install the new heating system in the first quarter of 2019. The installation work will necessitate a 12 week closure of the Priory, but once complete will deliver the following benefits:

1. The internal temperature will be managed within a narrower range benefiting the fabric of the building and visitors to the Priory;
2. A more comfortable and consistent temperature will be achieved during services and events benefiting the mission of the Church;
3. There will be a reduction in reliance on fossil fuel benefiting the environment;
4. The new system, with modern controls, will reduce manpower input and benefits the PCC.

During 2017 the Liquid Worship congregation looked at Jesus' family tree, which is usually called the Jesse Tree (ref. Isaiah 11.1). The Biblical characters looked at during the year included Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Ruth, David, Solomon and Mary. Each service was concluded with an enthusiastic rendition of the popular action song, Father Abraham - a real test of the clergy's coordination!

Our outreach continues with various initiatives: the box for contributions for the Skipton Food Bank is usually full to the brim each week; we have had a collection of winter clothes for local asylum seekers and refugees and we also contribute items needed for babies born to mothers in financial difficulty.

For the second year running members of the Priory Community have joined a local Wharfedale effort to raise awareness of and money for the charity Mary's Meals. The charity highlights issues of poverty, hunger and education in countries in the majority world, and seeks to provide a nutritious meal each day for children in school. More than £18.5k has been raised over the two years to feed the 700+ children at the Sawali School in Malawi - a fantastic community effort.

Crowds gathered to see the second annual Live Nativity at the Priory on 09 December 2017. The presentation of the Christmas story was made in partnership with friends at the tourism office of the Bolton Abbey Estate and featured plenty of animals, including sheep, goats, alpacas and, of course, a donkey. The cast was supplied largely by the Boyle and Petyt Primary School, who were supported by veteran Priory performers Paul and Val Middleton, Ronnie Moore, and Peter Loweth. A cold, bright and dry day provided the perfect backdrop to this outdoor witness to the Christian story.

## **6. Financial Review**

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds during the year amounted to £222,883 (2016 - £321,438) though the 2016 figure included grants of £125,611 towards the new lighting scheme at the Priory Church. Total expenditure from those funds amounted to £233,278 (2016 - £331,907) though that figure included £123,996 on the lighting scheme. The net result of all this was a deficit for the year of £10,395 (2016 - £10,469). Preparations have started on a new heating system for the church and £23,670 has been expended on this project during the year. Included in the expenditure was the payment in full of our diocesan share of £120,232. In 2016 we paid £110,687 only towards our share for that year of £130,687.

## **7. Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC policy to maintain adequate reserves on unrestricted funds to cover any eventuality for the maintenance of this ancient church. As a consequence, at the year end, we held £64,088 in a general reserve account and £53,942 in the fabric account. These accounts are held by the Central Board of Finance but, unfortunately, attract little interest at this time.

8. The PCC greatly appreciates and thanks all those from the congregation who contribute so much to the work of the Priory Church, its worship and its mission:
- a. The Serving team led by Mr Michael Vineall
  - b. The Liquid Worship team led by Mrs Judith Schofield
  - c. The administration department led by Mrs Margaret Cody assisted by Mrs Betty Nelmes, Mrs Marie Grunwell and Mrs Carol Dawson
  - d. Mrs Sandra Stubbs our secretary to the PCC, and our treasurer, Mr Michael Heatley
  - e. The Special Events team led by Mrs Lyn Bartlett
  - f. The Works Committee led by Mr Matt Hey and Mr Andy Carr
  - g. The cleaning teams organised by Mr Andrew Wade
  - h. The Choir and the Priory Director of Music, Dr Timothy Raymond
  - i. The floral teams co-ordinated by Mrs Lorna Freegard
  - j. The magazine team and its editor, Mrs Val Middleton
  - k. The Welcome Team led by Mr Gerry Yates
  - l. The Voluntary Offertory and general money counters
  - m. The marriage contact and follow-up support, Mrs Bev Wood
  - n. The Sacristan, Mrs Jen Hardaker and her assistant Mrs Karin Turnbull.
  - o. The honorary members of the Clergy team, The Revds Christopher Armstrong and James Turnbull
  - p. The Priory Verger, Mr Tony Cantlow
  - q. The sidesmen led by Mr Stephen Murgatroyd
  - r. The Friends of Bolton Priory under their chairman Mrs Jill Riley
  - s. Our webmaster, Mr Paul Middleton
  - t. Last, but by no means least, the Priory Churchwardens, Mr Paul Middleton and Mr Matt Hey.

On behalf of the PCC

30 January 2018

S. C. Cowling  
Rector