

**PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2024**

1. Administrative information

The Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert is situated in the village of Bolton Abbey and is part of the Diocese of Leeds. 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 date of the last report, 31 January 2024, until the date of this report are:

Clergy

Rev N. J. Mercer

Rector, Chairman

Rev T. Cantlow

Distinctive Deacon (non-voting)

Churchwardens

Mr M. J. Hey

Mrs J. R. Simpson, Acting PCC Secretary

Diocesan Synod Representative

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mrs S. Barker

Mr P. Lambert

Honorary Member

Duke of Devonshire

Patron

Elected Lay Representatives

Mrs E. Adams-Lambert

Environment Officer/Village Hall representative

Mrs S. Barker

Mrs J. Crawford

Mrs R. Fisher

Electoral Roll/Friends

Mr M. J. R. Heatley

PCC Treasurer

Mrs G. Holme

Mr P. Lambert (non-voting)

Verger

Mrs K. J. Templeton

Guides organiser

Mr G. Yates

Resigned 24 August 2024

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 113 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. Of these 89% live outside the Parish.

b. During 2024 there were 12 baptisms in the Priory Church and 20 couples were married. There were also 12 funerals and 7 interments of ashes.

5. Review of the Year

As I write this report at the end of 2024, the Church of England is facing one of the most turbulent times in its history. In November the Archbishop of Canterbury (Justin Welby) resigned as a result of safeguarding failures in the Church of England. These are difficult times as the Church continues to grapple with its historic and current safeguarding failures and shortcomings. However, having submitted the Statistics for Mission at the end of 2024, I am pleased to report that, despite these troubled times, Bolton Priory has continued to hold together and indeed, there is very little difference between the attendance figures for 2023 and 2024. In addition, we continue to be joined by an on-line worshipping community which averages about 80 people each Sunday.

Some notable events during the course of 2024, included:

On the 3rd March, a service of thanksgiving for the role of High Sherriff was held at the Priory to mark the end of the tenure of Claire Grainger as High Sherriff of North Yorkshire. It also marked the end of the Rector's tenure as chaplain to the High Sherriff.

Five members of the Priory went on a Lent retreat to Ampleforth Abbey between the 4th and 6th of March. The retreat focused on the Gospel of John and was given by Father Henry Wansbrough OSB.

On the 9th of March, the St Cuthbert's lecture was given by Professor Sir Ian Kershaw and Professor David Stocker on the "architectural mystery" of the recess in the South Wall of Bolton Priory. It was very well attended though not all were persuaded by the explanation that it had been a liturgical bell tower!

On All Fools' Day the Rector marked his Quinquennium at Bolton Priory.

On the 21st and 28th of May the Rector gave the D Day lecture at Ripon Cathedral on the Just War tradition and International Law.

Reverend Lorna Heatley, who has been a member of the Priory congregation since childhood, was ordained deacon at Ripon Cathedral by the Bishop of Leeds on the 29th June and the Reverend Tony Cantlow was licensed as a Deacon in the parish of Bolton Abbey by the Bishop of Ripon on 14th July.

On the 16th August, Bolton Priory held its very first "Last Night of the Proms" on the lawn of Bolton Hall courtesy of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. The concert included the opera singers Alexandra Lowe and Ryan Vaughan Davis and the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ben Crick. The event was superbly arranged by Carol Dawson and raised just short of £12,000 for the Priory.

New glass West Doors were installed at the Priory at the beginning of August commemorating the Coronation of King Charles III and were blessed by Bishop John Flack on the 8th September. New glass South Doors were installed in November and have greatly enhanced the interior of the Priory. The cost of these doors was completely funded by the Friends of Bolton Priory.

On 19th December Bolton Priory became a Gold Eco Church having been awarded a gold Eco Church Award by A. Rocha UK. This was due to the superb work by Elaine Adams-Lambert and her team. Bolton Priory is only the 66th Church in the country to receive such an award.

Liturgy and Worship

Worship continued throughout the year. We had a number of visiting preachers who came to Bolton Priory during the year including Reverend Talisker McLeod, Rector of Cherbury, Sister Margaret Atkins OSA, Reverend David Gifford (former CEO of the Council for Christians and Jews) and Reverend Inderjit Bhogal who was the former Head of the Methodist Conference and founder of the City of Sanctuary.

The outreach of the Priory continued. Donations were made to the Two Ridings Community Association, British Red Cross, Mary's Meals, Woodland Trust and Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association.

Music continued to play a pivotal part in the life and worship of the Priory. In May, Dr Tim Raymond resigned as the Director of Music and Brian Mason stood in as the organist and choir master while the post was advertised and interviews held. Duncan Glenday was appointed as the Organist and Choir Master during the summer and took up his post on the 2nd September. Amelie Chaduc stood down as the organ scholar after Easter. It is hoped to have a new organ scholar in 2025.

Liquid Worship continued to flourish. As well as services on the first Sunday of each month we, once again, held an All-Ages Service on Palm Sunday and a joint service for Harvest Festival where 113 people attended. A talk was given on the Priory's efforts to acquire gold status as an eco-church. In addition to Liquid Worship, Sedbergh School sang choral evensong on the 25th February followed by Giggleswick School on the 28th April. The Boyle and Petyt School held their carol service at the Priory on the 19th December and Christingle was held on Christmas Eve.

The concert committee had their final season at the Priory with concerts by the York Railway Institute Brass Band, Skipton Choral Society, the Leeds Philharmonic Chorus and a piano recital given by Margaret Bruce which included music by Dr Tim Raymond. The Lady Clare Consort and Cantores Salicium also gave memorable concerts during the year. Professor Michael Hudson has been appointed as the new concert director for 2025.

Conclusion

I am pleased to report that, once again, Bolton Priory held together very well in 2024, keeping up numbers and paying our Parish Share in full. However this a time of change and the fact we have held twelve funerals this year (16% of the parish) illustrates the demographic changes that are happening in this parish and across the Church of England as a whole. Whatever the political difficulties the national church finds itself in, we need to prepare for the transition at the end of this decade and the inevitable succession that will follow. It is incumbent on the current generation to equip Bolton Priory for ministry and mission for the coming decade and beyond.

6. Financial Review

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds during the year amounted to £226,236 (2023 - £190,952). Total expenditure from those funds amounted to £223,976 (2023 - £195,659). The net result of this was a surplus for the year of £2,260 (2023 - Deficit - £4,707).

Total receipts on restricted funds during the year amounted to £33,340 (2023 - £19,515) Total expenditure from those funds amounted to £63,516 (2023 - £11,581). There was therefore a deficit on these funds of £30,176 (2023 - Surplus £7,934). This was brought about by further expenditure on the Heating Project but which is now almost completed.

Our Share for 2024 was set at £88,382 and we paid this in full. We have not yet been told the amount of our Share for 2025 but the Diocese is aware that, although we will always pay our Baseline Parish Share in full (2024 - £72,634), we will only pay so much of the Capping Adjustment (2024 - £15,748) as to keep us out of deficit for the year.

7. Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain adequate reserves in unrestricted funds to cover any eventuality for the maintenance of this ancient church. As a consequence, at the year end, we held £25,757 in a general reserve account (2023 - £32,450). This account is held by the Central Board of Finance.

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 mission:

- a. The Standing Committee: The Rector, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Mrs K. Templeton.
- b. The Serving Team led by Mr Michael Vineall.
- c. The Liquid Worship team led by Mrs Joan Mason.
- d. The Administration Department led by Mrs Margaret Cody assisted by Mrs Amanda Wood.
- e. Mrs Kate Templeton our Secretary and our Treasurer, Mr Michael Heatley.
- f. The Church cleaning, now JK Cleaning Services, overseen by Mrs J. Simpson and with additional help from members of the congregation.
- g. The Choir Master and Organist, Mr Duncan Glenday and Deputy Organist, Mr Brian Mason.
- h. Following the retirement of Mrs Lorna Freegard during the year, the floral teams are co-ordinated by Mrs Liz Clayton and Mrs Rosemarie Fisher is the contact for wedding couples.
- i. The magazine editor, Mrs Joyce Simpson ably assisted by Mrs Liz Clayton.
- j. The Welcome Team led by Mrs Kate Templeton.
- k. The Environment Group, Elaine Adams-Lambert and team.
- l. The Voluntary Offertory and general money counters.
- m. The Sacristan, Mrs Jen Hardaker.
- n. The coffee team led by Mrs Liz Hornby.
- o. The Priory Verger, Mr Peter Lambert.
- p. The Sidesmen led by Mrs Susan Whittaker,
- q. The Friends of Bolton Priory under their Chairman, Mr Richard Watson
- r. Our webmaster Mrs Aurora Mercer.
- s. The Skipton Food Bank team led by Mrs Lyn Bartlett
- t. Our Baby Basics contact, Mrs Mary Vineall.
- u. Last, but by no means least, our Churchwardens, Mr Matt Hey and Mrs Joyce Simpson.

On behalf of the PCC

N. J. Mercer

6 March 2025

Rev N. J. Mercer

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 2024

RECTOR:

Revd N. J. Mercer
The Rectory
Bolton Abbey
Skipton
BD23 6AL

BANKERS:

Santander UK plc
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

T. A. Barker
Chartered Certified Accountant
Barnhill
Wetherby Road
Collingham
LS22 5AY

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PRIORY CHURCH
OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>Note</u>	<u>Unrestric ted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2 (a)	£106,852	£ 27,037	£133,889	£120,710
Other voluntary incoming resources	2 (b)	74,085	-	74,085	38,551
Income from ancillary trading	2 (c)	42,012	-	42,012	40,016
Income from investments	2 (d)	<u>3,287</u>	<u>6,303</u>	<u>9,590</u>	<u>11,190</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>226,236</u>	<u>33,340</u>	<u>259,576</u>	<u>210,467</u>
RESOURCES USED					
Grants	3 (a)	4,369	-	4,369	4,000
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3 (b)	179,589	6,468	186,057	157,890
Church management and administration	3 (c)	<u>40,018</u>	<u>57,048</u>	<u>97,066</u>	<u>45,350</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		<u>223,976</u>	<u>63,516</u>	<u>287,492</u>	<u>207,240</u>
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES	9	2,260	(30,176)	(27,916)	3,227
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY		<u>89,686</u>	<u>158,715</u>	<u>248,401</u>	<u>245,174</u>
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER		£ <u>91,946</u>	£ <u>128,539</u>	£ <u>220,485</u>	£ <u>248,401</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PRIORY CHURCH
OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock of books and postcards		£ 11,440	£ 10,829
Debtors	6	2,561	1,650
Short term deposits		197,260	232,724
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>12,014</u>	<u>10,070</u>
		<u>223,275</u>	<u>255,273</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	7	<u>(2,790)</u>	<u>(6,872)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>220,485</u>	<u>248,401</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£220,485</u>	<u>£248,401</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	5	£ 91,881	£ 89,621
Restricted		<u>128,604</u>	<u>158,780</u>
		<u>£220,485</u>	<u>£248,401</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

N. J. Mercer

Revd N. J. Mercer
Rector

M. J. R. Heatley

Michael J. R. Heatley
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PRIORY CHURCH
OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions and is prepared under FRS102(2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Short term deposits

These are the cash held on deposit with the CCLA.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PRIORY CHURCH
OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	<u>Unrestric ted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
2(a) Income resources from donors				
Planned giving				
Gift aided	£ 61,213	£ -	£ 61,213	£ 63,452
Income tax recoverable	17,211	-	17,211	17,816
Not gift aided	1,560	-	1,560	1,466
Collections at all services	22,585	-	22,585	21,119
Votive candles	1,282	-	1,282	1,524
Donations	<u>3,001</u>	<u>27,037</u>	<u>30,038</u>	<u>15,333</u>
	<u>106,852</u>	<u>27,037</u>	<u>133,889</u>	<u>120,710</u>
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources				
Church boxes	29,019	-	29,019	28,983
Fund raising events	<u>45,066</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,066</u>	<u>9,568</u>
	<u>74,085</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,085</u>	<u>38,551</u>
2(c) Income from ancillary trading				
Bookstall	21,878	-	21,878	21,850
Magazine	4,475	-	4,475	4,504
Fees - see note	<u>15,659</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,659</u>	<u>13,662</u>
	<u>42,012</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,012</u>	<u>40,016</u>
2(d) Income from investments				
Bank interest	<u>3,287</u>	<u>6,303</u>	<u>9,590</u>	<u>11,190</u>
	<u>3,287</u>	<u>6,303</u>	<u>9,590</u>	<u>11,190</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>£226,236</u>	<u>£ 33,340</u>	<u>£259,576</u>	<u>£210,467</u>

Note: Fees

Fees due to the PCC

Weddings	£ 5,800	£ 5,580
Funerals, cremations etc	4,310	3,832
Video/Streaming/Photography	5,280	4,250
As shown above	15,390	13,662
Heating/Music	3,270	3,270
	<u>18,660</u>	<u>16,932</u>

Fees passed on to:

Diocese	7,374	6,975
Organist	5,125	4,630
Choir	2,200	3,520
Verger	2,290	2,105
	<u>16,989</u>	<u>17,230</u>

Total fees received	<u>£ 35,649</u>	<u>£ 34,162</u>
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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PRIORY CHURCH
OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3. RESOURCES USED

	<u>Unrestric ted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
3(a) Grants				
Missionary and charitable giving:				
Overseas mission societies	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Christian relief agencies	-	-	-	-
Home mission and Church societies	-	-	-	-
Secular charities	4,369	-	4,369	4,000
	<u>4,369</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,369</u>	<u>4,000</u>
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Ministry: Diocesan share	88,382	-	88,382	93,034
Clergy expenses	1,009	-	1,009	1,206
Organists and choir	9,083	715	9,798	8,892
Verger	1,980	-	1,980	1,880
Altar and books	1,917	-	1,917	2,290
Light and heat	6,796	-	6,796	4,913
Insurance	5,967	-	5,967	5,774
Repairs and renewals	15,013	-	15,013	12,833
Fund raising events	28,541	-	28,541	3,404
Bookstall	12,013	-	12,013	9,609
Magazine	3,727	-	3,727	3,838
Boyle Room	5,161	-	5,161	5,391
Flowers and requisites	-	5,753	5,753	4,826
	<u>179,589</u>	<u>6,468</u>	<u>186,057</u>	<u>157,890</u>
3(c) Church management and Administration				
Rectory	5,989	-	5,989	6,807
Parish administrator	14,520	-	14,520	13,800
Parish office	7,235	-	7,235	8,300
Office equipment - running costs	4,459	-	4,459	5,341
Printing, stationery, postage, telephone	3,753	-	3,753	3,566
Sundries	4,062	-	4,062	2,266
Heating project	-	57,048	57,048	5,270
	<u>40,018</u>	<u>57,048</u>	<u>97,066</u>	<u>45,350</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	<u>£223,976</u>	<u>£ 63,516</u>	<u>£287,492</u>	<u>£207,240</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PRIORY CHURCH
OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. STAFF COSTS

	<u>Total Funds</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Wages and salaries	£ 21,980	£ 22,760
Social security costs	—	—
	<u>£ 21,980</u>	<u>£ 22,760</u>

During the year the PCC employed a parish administrator, two organists and a verger, one of whom earned over £10,000.

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Current assets	£ 94,671	£128,604	£223,275
Current liabilities	<u>(2,790)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(2,790)</u>
Fund balance	<u>£ 91,881</u>	<u>£128,604</u>	<u>£220,485</u>

6. DEBTORS

Income tax recoverable	£ 1,202	£ 1,325
Other debtors	<u>1,359</u>	<u>325</u>
	<u>£ 2,561</u>	<u>£ 1,650</u>

7. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Creditors for goods and services	£ 1,688	£ 5,705
Accruals	<u>1,102</u>	<u>1,167</u>
	<u>£ 2,790</u>	<u>£ 6,872</u>

8. FUND DETAILS

The unrestricted funds comprise the main church account and part of the restoration account.

The restricted funds comprise part of the restoration account, the music endowment account and the flower account.

9. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Church account	£ 281	£ (6,860)
Restoration account	<u>1,979</u>	<u>2,153</u>
	<u>2,260</u>	<u>(4,707)</u>
Restoration account	(30,750)	7,525
Music endowment account	(111)	569
Flower account	<u>685</u>	<u>(160)</u>
	<u>(30,176)</u>	<u>7,934</u>
	<u>£ (27,916)</u>	<u>£ 3,227</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT, BOLTON ABBEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

T. A. Barker

T. A. Barker
Chartered Certified Accountant
Independent Examiner
Barnhill
Wetherby Road
Collingham
LS22 5AY

7 March 2025