



A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

March 2023

Dear Member of Lancaster Priory,

We write to you with great joy, to thank you for all that you do to support the Priory with your time, talents and money. Without your generosity mission and ministry at the Priory would look very different and we would not be able to do so many of the things that we do.

During Lent of this year, we are undertaking a season of reflection on our gifts and how we use them. You can follow the Sermons from the 10.00am services online at Sound Cloud (<https://soundcloud.com/lancasterpriory/>). The documents for these sermons are also linked on the Sound Cloud posts, if you need help accessing these, please contact the vicar. We have also produced a leaflet on 'How much should I give?' to help you reflect on your own giving and a 'Stewardship Renewal' leaflet, which has a return slip for you to let us know your response. We have included standing order forms and gift aid forms for those who might need them. From 2023, our Annual Report will contain a narrative that accounts for the way we use our resources to care for the Priory Building and support the mission and ministry of God in our Parish and beyond. I hope that you will find all of these helpful as resources for understanding how we use the gifts you offer and how the many things we do fit a greater vision and purpose in the coming years.

We understand that people's personal circumstances vary significantly and that things sometimes change unexpectedly, nevertheless it is helpful for our treasurer to know when your giving is increasing or reducing, because we budget according to what we have been promised in the coming months, and the sooner we know about fluctuations in giving we are able to make adjustments to the budget.

Your Parochial Church Council has been praying and discerning an exciting vision for the future of Lancaster Priory which is mentioned in the leaflet on Stewardship, although at present it is in its early stages of development. In the process of doing this, we have all committed to reflecting on how much we ourselves give both in terms of time and money and we want to share with you some of our reflections in the hope that these would be a source of encouragement and inspiration this Lent.

Our reflections on why we give our time, money and talents:

"I give in gratitude for the gifts that God has given me. I give in gratitude for answers to my prayers. I give in gratitude for the joy I feel in worshipping in such a beautiful place and for the support and friendship I have found at Lancaster Priory."

"For nearly fifty years, I have been trying to learn how to be a Christian at the Priory and within the Priory congregation; I want, very much, to support this school for Christians for the future."

"I consider the Priory to be a place where you're never alone, a place where I have a strong sense of belonging, of family and of Christian love. It's part of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth."

"We give to the Priory because we want the Priory to increasingly become a beacon of faith, hope and love in our community. We believe that it is our responsibility to give back a portion of the resources that God has given us to play our part in enabling this to happen."

“I want to give to the Priory in whatever ways I can as it is a treasured part of my life for which I am very thankful. It is a historical, spiritual, building with a worshipping community over hundreds of years. It is important that I help to fund it in order that not only can its building be preserved for worship, but also that it can continue to serve the people of Lancaster both spiritually and with wide ranging outreach and charitable activities.”

“Whilst the building is a very visible jewel of historic and cultural importance to Lancaster, its major value over centuries has been as a centre for Christian worship, with all that entails: outreach support in numerous ways to those in need; a moral compass to all those associated with it; and a perpetual source of hope for the wider community it is there to serve.

The Priory’s continuance depends upon our full support in terms of time, talents, and finance.”

“To repay in part all that it gives to me.....a sense of belonging, of being loved, and fellowship with others with similar values. To help maintain this ancient building whose walls are steeped in the hymns and prayers of countless worshippers who came before me and will I hope continue well after me.”

The Priory is made up of us, all of us. We do not receive government funding and we achieve all that we do because of God’s amazing generosity, which we know through one another, as we follow the example of God’s generosity shown to us in Jesus Christ. We hope that you will find these resources helpful as you renew your own commitment to supporting the mission and ministry of God in the Parish and Priory Church of St Mary’s, Lancaster. We will continue to pray for you and with you, that God will bless all of our endeavours to serve him and his people now and in the years to come.

The Stewardship Renewal Leaflet in this pack contains a reply slip to indicate how you will be responding to this giving campaign. Can you please return this by Easter Day in order to help us determine what impact the giving campaign has had on our projected income. The PCC will need to make budgetary decisions for the future of the Priory on the basis of this information.

With gratitude and prayers from the Parochial Church Council of Lancaster Priory

Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders (Chair, Vicar)
Dame Pauline Fielding (Vice Chair, Churchwarden, Deanery Synod)
Mrs Barbara Gardener (Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary)
Mr Martin Mulligan (Secretary)
Mr Peter Hopwood
Mr Andrew Nicholson
Mrs Beverley Roberts (Deputy Warden)
Mr Nick Walker (Deputy Warden)
Mrs Gill Witt (Parish Safeguarding Officer, Adults)
Mrs Mary Davis
Mr Brian Greenwood
Mrs Christine Dickinson
Mr John Dickinson
Mrs Sarah Hutchins
Dr Awena Carter (Deanery & Diocesan Synod, Bishop’s Council)
Professor Richard Carter (LLM, Deanery & Diocesan Synod, Bishop’s Council)
Mrs Lois Kirtley (LLM)
Mrs Christine Mullineaux (LLM)
Mr Kenneth Wilkinson-Roberts
Ms Kim Robinson
Mrs Valerie Pearson
Mr David Redmore
Professor Malik Salameh