

LEWES PRIORY SCHOOL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022
January 1st 2022 - December 31st. 2022

WEBSITE <https://lewesprioryschoolmemorialchapeltrust.org>

1) IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FABRIC OF THE CHAPEL

The annual report for 2022 must begin with the improvements that have been made to the chapel this year using the funds so generously given by those who donated to the Chapel Appeal Fund that ran from March 2021 to May 2021. ..

The work carried out during 2022 included the following:-

- a) Cleaning the exterior walls of the chapel by Heritage Cleaning of Pennybridge Lane, Mayfield, TN20 6QB at a cost of £11,720
- b) Sanding, cleaning, repairing and polishing the cork floor by S&P flooring of Hassocks at a cost of £12,475
- c) New Entrance Carpet by Image flooring of Deanland Business Park, Golden Cross BN27 3RP at a cost of £1395
- d) The construction and installation of new doors by Alec Woodland of 5 Hartington Place, Brighton, BN23LR to include a new oak outer door at the south side and several internal doors including the large inner entrance doors at the main entry at a total cost of £5470

There is more to be done but this has been an impressive start and with all the costs covered by the 2021 appeal. We are only sorry that two of our most generous donors, Graham Frost and Brian Wilson, died before being able to see the improvements they helped us to achieve.

The Chapel Trustees are very grateful to John Murray who has organised and overseen all of the work carried out to improve the school chapel, and to Gerry Sutton whose generosity made the appeal such a success,

2) RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL STAFF WHO HAVE HELPED THE CHAPEL TRUSTEES

During the course of 2022 we have had to say farewell to three members of Priory School staff who have been particularly helpful to the Chapel Trustees. As Headmaster, Tony Smith has made us welcome for our Annual Meetings, arranged for the chapel to be open for us to walk around and survey what needs to be done, approved school expenditure to improve lighting and heating in the chapel, invited us to Christmas concerts in the Chapel and supported our work at all times.

In his role as School Bursar Ian Fines has given the Chapel Trustees very sound advice on tradesmen to employ and was particularly helpful in making arrangements for the re-hanging of the chapel bell. He has made time to liaise with tradesmen on our behalf and to plan repairs and restoration of the chapel organ. We wish a happy retirement to Tony and Ian.

Latin Teacher Paul Holt has been a wonderfully supportive liaison teacher linking the pupils to the Chapel and to the Chapel Trustees. His work with the Junior (student) Trustees and his organisation of "trustee assemblies" at school have been instrumental in raising the profile of the chapel among the students of Priory School. We wish him all the best as he moves school to gain the promotion he richly deserves.

3) WELCOMING JON CURTIS-BRIGNELL AS NEW HEADMASTER

At our final 2022 meeting of Trustees in November we were able to meet on Zoom with the new Headmaster who we found to be fully supportive of the aims of the Chapel Trust. We look forward to a long and happy time in our joint aims of keeping the Chapel a useful asset to the school and a memorial to the 55.

4) THE 2022 REUNION OF OLD LEWESIANS - APRIL 2nd 2022

As usual the Memorial Chapel held a service on the afternoon of our reunion. Chapel Trustees took part in the service which was organised by Martyn Relf and which featured an excellent talk by John Meardon, and the ringing our newly restored chapel bell by Martyn Relf. As usual, the large majority of OLs who attended the reunion also attended the chapel service.

The organ accompanist for the service was our former organ scholar Will Walshe-Grey, who is now Organ Scholar at Bristol University. As Trustees we are delighted that our organ scholar has made such strong progress.

5) REMEMBRANCE 2022

On Sunday November 13th A remembrance service in the Chapel was planned and led by Valerie Shrubbs and Ray Henning involving Chapel Trustees and students from the school. The service featured reminiscences of the 55 by David Arnold and a beautiful solo of Amazing Grace sung by Priory School pupil Lucy Lewis. Wreaths were laid by the Old Lewesians, the Chapel Trustees and the Mayor of Lewes.

6) DISPLAY IN LEWES HIGH STREET

After the Remembrance service a number of us were able to make our way to the top of Station Street to see the wonderful display that trustees John Gower and David Arnold had set up in the tourist office window and which ran from November 11th - 18th 2022. Featuring WW2 mementos and a copy of David Arnold's book of the 55 the display was eye catching and attractive, and successfully aimed at raising awareness of the Chapel and its importance to Lewes.

7) CHAPEL OPEN DAY IN "LEWES OPEN HOUSE WEEK"

Trustees Alan Pett, David Arnold, Martyn Relf, John Murray and Headmaster Jon Curtis-Brignell were on hand to welcome about 50 visitors to the chapel. Terry Steele played the organ, Alan Pett put out a fine display, the bell was rung and a leaflet about the Chapel was available for visitors.