

Who am I?

The prior	is in charge of the Priory – its spiritual side, its buildings, its finances. He is elected by the canons, and they meet every day to discuss business in the Chapter House. He is often given royal business to do, and sometimes summoned to attend councils or Parliaments.
The sub-prior	is the prior's deputy, and in charge when the prior is away. He is also responsible for maintaining the priory church and the buildings.
The cellarer	is responsible for all the material things in the Priory. This includes procuring food and drink, clothing, repairs, pigments for making inks and paints. He'll be in charge of the valuables that people like the king leave at Merton for safe-keeping. He is also the chief accountant. Not surprisingly, the position of cellarer is a stepping-stone to becoming prior.
The hosteller	looks after the guests - and since Merton's reputation for hospitality is high, it's an important job.
The precentor	helps services run smoothly, so he's got fingers in several pies. He is the music master, in charge of the singing school and of training the canons to sing; he makes sure that all the liturgical texts and music are prepared for services, and that everyone knows what to do. He's helped by the succentor and the weekly cantor, who leads the canons' singing in services (they sing a lot) and the deacon and sub-deacon, who lead parts of the services.
The novice master	is in charge of novices, young or old, and for their education; the Priory's school-master.
The succentor	is the deputy precentor. They are both in charge of the library, keeping manuscripts in good condition (he hates damp!) and acquiring new ones; he works closely with the canons in the Scriptorium.

The kitchener	is in charge of the canons' food. The refectorian prepares and clears the Refectory, where the canons take their meals (in silence, listening to a reading). They don't like rats or cockroaches.
The sacristan	keeps the priory Church in good order - the silver polished and the vestments looking smart. He is also the canon given guests' valuables to look after.
The almoner	looks after the poor. He has an almonry, where they can visit (he'll even wash their feet), and he is in charge of the alms collected for aiding the poor.
The chamberlain	makes sure that the canons have clean bedding and habits; hot water for washing and shaving, and so on. The canons have quite a few servants between them, so he gets a bit of help.
The corrodian	is a long-term guest of the priory. Corrodians usually have to pay a corrody (a nice fat fee) to have their own hotel room and a daily ration of bread and ale. But the King and the Pope impose corrodians on the Priory – it's a good way of rewarding their servants and ministers – the Priory has to pay!
The circator	has to keep the canons in order, and present them at Chapter when they step out of line – flogging them if necessary.
The novice	To become a canon, you serve as a postulant for 6 months, a novice for a year and then you can take your vows .
The servant	There are lots of servants. They did everything from fetching water, cleaning the latrines (eugh!) and feeding the horses, to taking messages and helping look after guests. Some servants were high-status, like the cook or the attorney.
The infirmarian	is in charge of the Infirmary and all those canons (and guests) who are ill or very old.