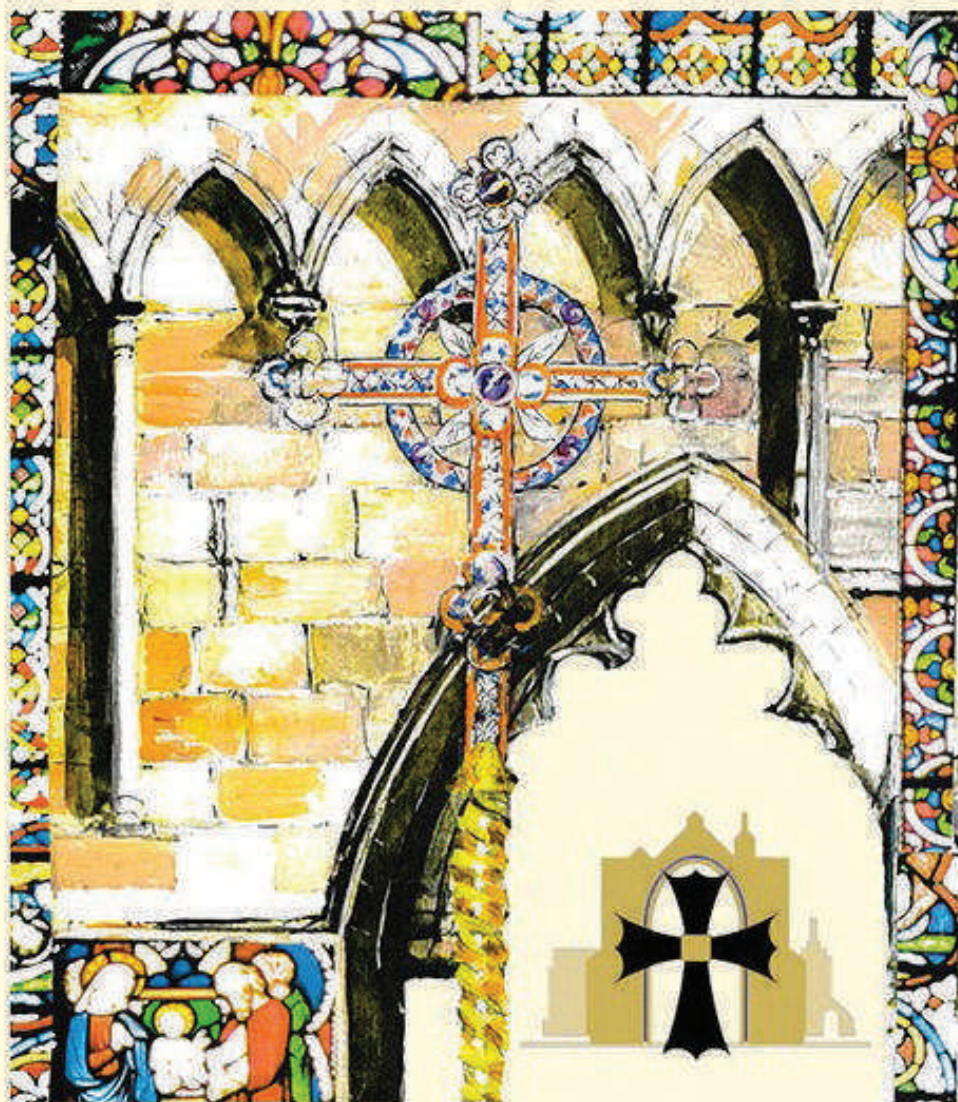


BOLTON ABBEY PARISH MAGAZINE



**JULY · AUGUST
2023**

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The Church Office

Bolton Abbey, Skipton BD23 6AL

01756 710238

office@boltonpriory.org.uk

The Rector

The Rectory, Bolton Abbey, Skipton BD23 6AL

rector@boltonpriory.org.uk

Website

www.boltonpriory.church

SUNDAY

08.00	Holy Communion
09.15	Liquid Family Service First Sunday of the month
10.30	Sung Eucharist
16.30	Evensong as announced

WEDNESDAY

10.00	Holy Communion
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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS and FUNERALS

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From Revd Nicholas Mercer

As I am about to go away on leave, I have been asked to write this message before I go. It is a Bank Holiday today with glorious weather and the day before we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. The Feast of Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples in Jerusalem enabling them to go out and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even though this date will have long passed by the time this message is published, it seemed a suitable moment to reflect on our life at Bolton Priory

When I was reading the account in the Acts of the Apostles, I was reminded of Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians where he states:

*There are many different gifts
But it is always the same Spirit
There are many ways of serving
But it is always the same Lord
Now Christ's body is yourselves
Each of you with a part to play in the whole.*
(1 Corinthians 12)

This message from St. Paul tells us something very important as Christians. First of all, we are all filled with the Holy Spirit which gives us an innate dignity in our lives. There is a great deal of cruelty in the world at the moment, and we need to remind ourselves that each and every human being is also a bearer of the Holy Spirit. Before we condemn others or behave callously (as we do to refugees), just stop and think that our fellow men and women are Spirit bearers too.

Secondly, not only is the Holy Spirit an individual gift, it also bestows different gifts upon us all. Not only does this make us unique, but it means that we can all bring different gifts to bear in our life together in the Church. Finally, the gift of the Holy Spirit makes the Church a unity of the grace of God. At Pentecost we need to remind ourselves that we are all blessed with the Holy Spirit and, like the disciples, empowered to build and sustain God's Church here on earth.

Nicholas

BOLTON PRIORY CELEBRATES THE CORONATION



On Sunday May 7th at a special service of Holy Communion a large congregation celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. Festive music in the tradition of Byrd, Handel and Walton uplifted hearts and minds. The Rector in his sermon enjoined those present to be mindful of a serious duty to pray for the King, today and regularly throughout his reign. The King has taken on the mantle of responsibility both to exercise and ensure good governance throughout his realms and to uphold the Settlement of the Church of England. To fulfil both parts of his solemn Coronation Oath the King will need prayerful support. The Rector recognised that the King is mindful of the immense changes that have taken place in British society, and that he has stated his wish to be known as Defender of Faiths. Noting that for the first time in our history, leaders from all the main faiths took part in the Coronation ceremony, the Rector quoted the King: 'I am a committed Anglican Christian, but it is my duty to protect the diversity of our country, including protecting the space for Faith itself. This diversity is not just enshrined in the laws of our country, it is enjoined by my own faith.' The Rector concluded: 'I could not agree more.'

Afterwards, one hundred people were warmly welcomed to a magnificent Celebration Lunch in a Village Hall, festooned with Union Jack bunting, ribbon and flowers. Banner portraits of the new King presided over the feast. Good wine was enjoyed, and the cooks of the Parish had generously and expertly excelled. Coronation chicken, Coronation quiches, salmon mousse and salmon platters, a host of delicate dishes, with a great variety of fresh salads tempted the palate and were followed by an amazing array of luscious desserts. But the centrepiece which won deserved admiration was a superb cake of tiered whole cheeses, encrusted with jewels of royal icing. The unanimous verdict was: 'a feast fit for a King'. Conversation flowed, as visitors including some from France and the Ukraine, were gathered in; new beginnings were made as folk introduced themselves to neighbours, and long-standing friendships renewed.



But then came stillness as the familiar chords of Walton's 'Crown Imperial' echoed though the hall, and expectancy gathered, before we listened thoughtfully to Jonathan Dickson's measured and dignified reading of his 'Coronation Poem'. This was a fitting preface to the Loyal Toast, proposed by the Rector, and then followed an amazing Raffle.



Grateful thanks to all who came, to all who took such care in the preparation of wonderful dishes, and to all who willingly helped clear up afterwards. But a particular word of wholehearted appreciation to the two chief architects of the feast, Liz Hornby, who master-minded the whole, and to Carol Dawson, who imagined and crafted that amazing and memorable cake of cheese on its regal stand.

The day had yet another treat in store: a glorious concert in the Priory Church, directed and introduced by Lindy Williams, and given by

Cantores Salicium and by Camerata Salicium. The participation of this orchestra was generously sponsored by Judith Rea. The audience was glad to welcome some very talented young orchestral players from the Royal Northern College of Music, and three guest singers of fine calibre: Suzanne Longley, Martin Lay and Ian Wainwright. Our own Director of Music, Dr. Timothy Raymond, provided the accompaniment. We enjoyed a programme that in the first half foregrounded the English Renaissance composers, Weelkes, Tallis and Byrd, but reached a triumphant climax in a wonderful rendition of Vivaldi's Gloria. After the interval, a piece new to many, by Saint Saens, 'Calme des Nuits' offered an invitation to an introspective mood, before giving way to the exuberant excitement of Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks. Sections from a Bach Cantata brought the Priory's day of celebration to a fitting close, as the choir sang in German: 'God the Lord is our sun and shield. - - He holds us in Truth and gives us everlasting Freedom'.

Editor

NEW LIFE FOR FORMER CHAPEL AT BARDEN

A former Wesleyan Chapel at Barden on the Bolton Abbey Estate is breathing new life after a major restoration and refurbishment project. Built in 1884 for the sum of £820 it opened in 1885 on a plot of land with a 99-year lease from the Bolton Abbey Estate. Under a Welsh blue slate roof, with 'snecked' stonework it incorporates many of the elements of the Gothic Revival style. Originally the lower floor was used as a school or meeting room with the services held in the chapel above. The chapel's declining attendance and increased costs resulted in it being brought back into the Estate's ownership for £400 in 1970, and subsequently it was used as a residence and small-scale workshop, fortunately with many of its original features remaining in good condition.

Award winning designer, Rachel McLane, has worked alongside Lady Celina to help her overcome the challenges of the Chapel's vast open space and realise her vision to turn this characterful property into a warm and inviting holiday home.





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A GUIDE'S TALE

When the weather is nice at the door of Bolton Priory it's apricity – the warmth of the winter sun.

Inside, the weather doesn't matter and it's confelicity – the pleasure you get from giving enjoyment to others.

I've only heard one rude remark from a visitor while I've been guiding, but I've heard lots of appreciation, directed not only to me, but to my regular partner, Richard. If we are at the entrance together and people come in it's like a scene from the Two Ronnies: "It's welcome from me and it's welcome from him." Obviously, we don't say that, partly because the visitors might be too young to get the joke, and because they might be visitors from abroad, and there are lots of those.

While I've been guiding there have been people from Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Rumania, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, France, Hungary, Croatia, Ireland, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Senegal. Those are only the people I've spoken to. And perhaps I may have forgotten some.

The young lady from Senegal was sitting quietly, gazing towards the altar and the decorated wall. Sometimes it's possible to know that people are praying and therefore are to be left to their devotions. In this case I couldn't decide and hesitated and then asked and she said yes, she was praying, but she'd like to talk to me. So, we chatted and she said how spiritual the church is and then, as I was talking to another group, she got up to leave with a big smile and a gesture of thanks.

That's where the confelicity comes in, but there's something much more important. Its peace comes dropping slow. The couple from Zimbabwe want to be married there.

When it's busy it's difficult to talk to everyone, which is where Richard and I are happily in tandem. We are the same age with parallel but completely different professional backgrounds – and we love talking to people.

When it's quiet there is more time to talk at length and this is where serendipity takes over, the knack of making happy chance discoveries. I recognised a man's accent as belonging to the south-west of Ireland and

found that he came from a tiny village a few miles away from another tiny village on the banks of the River Shannon where I spent many happy holidays as a little boy and teenager at the farm owned by an aunt and her husband. So Labasheeda's name is in the visitors' book.

On one afternoon two entirely separate groups were from Kerala, on the southern point of India, and then another a couple of days later. They were all Catholics, thanks to the missionary efforts of Thomas the Apostle, who was probably the first to spread the word of the gospel outside the Roman Empire. They seemed delighted that I knew that.

Then there were two separate groups from Scranton, Pennsylvania, where Joe Biden hails from. I have relations in Scranton, as a result of the Irish diaspora. There were people from Chicago, where I have lots of relations. It was at Soldier Field in Chicago that a man with my surname retained his world heavyweight boxing championship nearly a century ago.

There was a man who was the first Tottenham Hotspur supporter whom I have met who knows why they are called Hotspur. He also knows why Newcastle United play in black and white stripes. There's an interesting religious reason for that.

Then there were two ladies who went to the same teacher training college in Newcastle as my mother and two of my sisters. One of the couple became a Sacred Heart nun and her mentor was a great intellectual lady named Angela Ward. The Reverend Angela made a big fuss of me when I was a little boy on a visit there.

The most common thing that people say to me is that it's a small world, to which I reply with the Irish response, yes, but I wouldn't like to have to paint it.

You might think from all this that the history of the priory is forgotten, but that's the main point of us being there and we enjoy talking about it. We have the belief that it doesn't have to be dry as dust. Some visitors are more interested in the history than others. Some are surprised to know that the people who built the priory weren't monks and ask the difference. One of the differences is that canons had more pastoral concerns than monks, which is why the church survives because it acted as a parish church, while monasteries generally didn't have parish churches. Other works of the canons survive as the London hospitals of Bart's and St Thomas's. The St



Bernard rescue dogs in the Alps were the inspiration of another group.

People tend to think that the name canon implies some kind of seniority, but all canon really means is “rule”. Augustinian canons did, and do, follow the rule of Augustine of Hippo, while most monks follow the canon of Benedict of Nursia, hence the name Benedictines. Slightly different, but the aims are generally the same.

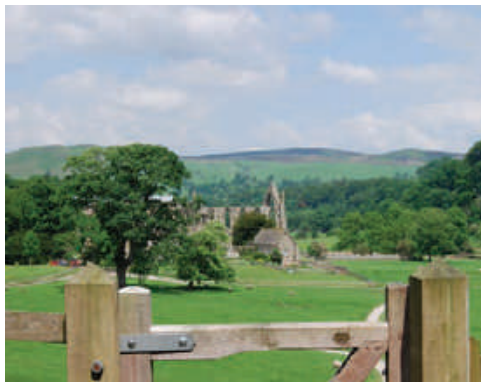
Some folk are fascinated to know that at the time Bolton was being founded another house was going ahead at Bridlington. The prior there said: “When you pray, you are talking to God; when you read, God is talking to you.”

Some visitors are at Bolton for different, spiritual, reasons. Some are people of non-Christian faith who are happy to absorb the atmosphere and are happy to say so, treating the church with great respect and reverence. I’m not being patronising. I just love it. Some folk are walkers who didn’t know of the gem but are happy to be invited in, which is Richard’s speciality. Some are there because they married there, or their sons or daughters did, and it brings back lovely memories.

And if people want to go looking for the mouse that’s fine by me – especially the younger ones, but there are adults who enjoy that as well.

Some people ask how long I’ve been working at the priory, to which I respond with Mark Twain’s observation that work is something you have to do when you’d rather be doing something else. While I’m there there’s nothing I’d rather be doing. When visitors say, “I didn’t know that” and “Thank you”, that’s all the reward I want.

John Tunney





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TRIBUTE TO JIM LEWIS 1934-2023

Jim Lewis: brother, father, husband, grandfather, entrepreneur, philanthropist, Aston Villa fanatic, racehorse owner extraordinaire, and man of the people. There are lucky people, there are very lucky people, and then you have Jim Lewis.

He fulfilled his childhood dream of owning a horse; then he had several wins before he struck lucky: Nadir, Edredon Bleu, and of course the great Best Mate. Edredon Bleu and Best Mate both won a King George at Kempton on Boxing Day. What else do you do when you are lucky Jim than win the King George at Christmas? Then, of course, Best Mate was three times the winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Jim Lewis was mentioned in the same company as Anne, Duchess of Westminster, owner of the legendary horse of all time, Arkle.

So how did this fantasy come about for the little boy from Bromford Bridge who started as a paper boy? Jim always delivered late because he was reading the form for that day's racing, together with every word about his beloved Aston Villa, for whom he stood on the terraces regularly. He knew the thrill of placing bets with an illegal bookmaker, and an occasional winner, paid in cash with coins.

Jim was evacuated during the Second World War to Repton, as the family home was adjacent to the largest manufacturing plant for planes. Over 12,000 Spitfires were built in Castle Bromwich. On leaving school and eventually technical college, Jim served in the RAF for 3 years and came out as a Corporal Senior aircraft man, with four weeks' pay.

Meantime, his sister, Doreen, walked to school with a lovely young lady called Valerie. Jim decided a date was required and wrote a letter to her. Life with Val was to prove a wonderful partnership, and they were blessed through adopting Samantha and Marvin, and subsequently had two delightful granddaughters, Georgie and Phoebe. The girls shared Jim's passion for laughter, accents, and fun.

Whilst initially the prospect of being a hod carrier and the gear factory beckoned, Jim felt that a collar and tie were more his style, and he became a sales rep for British Olivetti and found his niche. Poached by Crosse and Blackwell to sell the famous Branston pickle, he progressed to a black Morris Minor and won Salesman of the Year Award. Studying at Aston

University in the evening, he graduated in marketing, economics and geography and moved to Slumberland, and of course won the Slumberland trophy as Best Salesman.

With his dream of success and having had a little success with a few horses, he read of an up and coming point to point trainer, one Henrietta Knight, an Oxford graduate who taught biology, and her middle name is Patience. Her groom was Nureyev from Killarney, Co. Kerry, a man with no blood in his veins only ice, and the only jockey to ride both a Gold Cup and Grand National winner in the same year.

There were many great moments, but the third Gold Cup was outstanding. When the commentator announced, 'Best Mate is boxed in on the turn and looks in trouble', the entire Cheltenham crowd sighed, but of course they didn't count on Nureyev who without question whispered a little Irish lullaby in to the great horse's left ear and suggested: 'When you're ready, old fella, we'll make a move', and within 20 strides manoeuvred Best Mate out, and after a good jump at the second last fence, he took the lead. At the finish, the greatest roar we ever heard echoed around Gloucester.

And it didn't stop there, a couple of weeks later Jim paraded the Gold Cup on the hallowed turf of Villa Park. Jim stood where previously he had watched his heroes, including the legendary and eloquent Danny Blanchflower, and John Dixon captain of the 1957 FA cup team which beat Manchester United 2-1.

And what if Best Mate hadn't happened and all this success, would Jim Lewis have been a different person? Of course, the answer is no. Occasionally, there were stumbles and heart break, particularly in 2005 when after 46 years of marriage he lost his first love, Val, which put into perspective the loss of his Best Mate five weeks previously at Exeter when the great horse decided he had had enough.

Several years later Jim was invited to Kirsty's wedding in Ilkley, and as Jennifer says: 'The rest is history'. How blessed and wonderful that they should find each other, particularly as Jennifer's husband, Freddie, had passed away in 2002. They had 15 wonderful years together.

We all have our favourite stories of Jim, but I would like to share a brief one, when he received the second Gold Cup from the wonderful Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. On hearing the announcement, he took

hold of his younger brother's arm, to ensure they went on the podium together. How proud Jim's parents would have been!

Jim was a great philanthropist and raised over half a million pounds for the St Richard's Hospice in Worcester, giving freely of his time and his wise counsel. Many of you would have been at the race meetings he planned at Worcester; there is now the Best Mate room which offers great comfort in times of need. He was a great supporter of the Charitable Trust: 'We Are All Making A Difference'. Jim attended many functions, and the Trust was the beneficiary of Best Mate sales. Additionally, he gave a tremendous amount of money over many years to sick horses.

For 88 years Jim shared his incredible life with his close family. He held a deep faith and said daily prayers for those not as fortunate as himself. I, like countless others, am privileged that he shared a small part of his life with me. I think if we had discussed how to end this tribute Jim would have said just three words, the words he used throughout his life, when both meeting and leaving, and those three words are: 'UP THE VILLA!'

Arnie Kaplan MBE

BOLTON PRIORY CONCERTS WELCOME A NEW SPONSOR

The Priory Concert Committee would like to express their grateful thanks to Fiona Moore of Moore Family Law who has kindly agreed to sponsor the Priory Concert Series for the Wharfedale Chamber Ensemble concert on 15 July and for the full season of concerts in 2024.



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JULY

02 SUNDAY

09.15

12.30

03 Monday

04 Tuesday

05 Wednesday

06 Thursday

07 Friday

08 Saturday

09 SUNDAY

13 Thursday

15 Saturday

16 SUNDAY

19 Wednesday

20 Thursday

22 Saturday

23 SUNDAY

25 Tuesday

29 Saturday

30 SUNDAY

TRINITY 4

Liquid Family Service

Lunchtime Concert

UCC Handbell Choir

St Thomas

Memorial Service, Peter Rigby

The Wednesday Nighters

Marriage Service for Tom Jaggar and
Hannah Branfoot

Marriage Service for Ben Metters and
Katie Bowden

Marriage Service for Ian Berryman and
Faith Cowling

TRINITY 5

Marriage Service for Mark Durband and
Hayley Kavanagh

Priory Concert

Wharfedale Chamber Ensemble

TRINITY 6

The Phoenix Singers in the Priory

Upper Wharfedale Schools Leavers' Service

Marriage Service for Markus Hazell and
Rosanna Palmer

TRINITY 7

St James

Marriage Service for James Short and
Madeline Cook

TRINITY 8

12.00 Holy Baptism, Darcey Kerridge

AUGUST

02 Wednesday	19.30	The Wednesday Nighters
05 Saturday	12.00	Marriage Service for Darren Howson and Robyn Stevens
	14.30	Marriage Service for Joseph Launders and Rebecca Robinson
	19.30	Priory Concert, Tallis Consort
06 SUNDAY		THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
	12.00	Holy Baptism, Athena Taylor
13 SUNDAY		TRINITY 10
15 Tuesday		The Blessed Virgin Mary
20 SUNDAY		TRINITY 11
24 Thursday		St Bartholomew
27 SUNDAY		TRINITY 12
	12.00	Holy Baptism, Amelia Sainsbury
28 Monday	12.30	Marriage Service for Harry Brett and Hannah Donald

SEPTEMBER

01 Friday	13.00	Marriage Service for Toby Mountain and Lydia Rushton
02 Saturday	09.00	Wedding Meeting for those wishing to marry at the Priory
	19.30	Alexandra Lowe Concert
03 SUNDAY		TRINITY 13
	09.15	Liquid Family Service
06 Wednesday	19.30	The Wednesday Nighters

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 29th September in Bolton Abbey Village Hall.

Harvest Festival

Sunday 1st October followed by the Harvest Lunch
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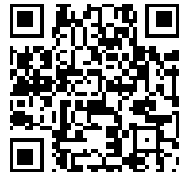


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WEDDING DAY

Marriage of Alison Barton and Chris Moorhouse, 20 April 2023



Members of the Priory Congregation were invited to be with Chris and Alison on their Wedding Day. In bright spring sunshine, we mingled with family and friends in the excitement of waiting for the bride. The Priory Church offers a wonderful wedding setting, and for a family of equine distinction horse-drawn

carriages were the appropriate choice. The first arrived with the six bridesmaids, in beautifully flowing blue-green dresses. The groom stood relaxed alongside his best man, chatting amiably. The arrival of the bride in a landau pulled by four superb bay horses was a thrilling moment. Alison could not have looked more radiant as she stepped with such poise from her carriage to be warmly welcomed by the Rector and made her entrance to the organist's rendition of Pachelbel's Canon.



The themes of dedication, trust and serious commitment echoed through the superb singing by choir and congregation of the hymns: 'I vow to Thee, my country', 'Lord of all hopefulness', and 'Jerusalem'. In his address the Rector offered a supportive glimpse of the way through life that stretches ahead for Alison and Chris, encouraging them to enjoy the blessings life brings, just as they would delight in a clear round in a show-jumping competition. He also offered the truthful possibility that at times life would bring its challenges, times of trial, like rounds that result in faults for refusals and poles displaced, but assured the bride and groom they would be held in the depth of their mutual love.

It was good for us to hear the Rector firmly say to Chris and Alison that 'Bolton Abbey is now your church', because as so often, we have grown a strong affection for this bridal pair, and enjoy all that they bring to our Sunday morning fellowship of worship and conversation over coffee in the Boyle Room.

Editor



ALEXANDRA LOWE

A SEPTEMBER
SERENADE

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and special guests

Ciorstaidh Beaton (Harpist)
Ryan Vaughan Davies (Tenor)
Cameron Edgar (Bagpiper)
Michael Papadopoulos (Pianist and Organist)

**“STUNNINGLY ASSURED
AND SUPERBLY EXPRESSIVE”**

(The Times, 2022)

TICKET PRICE: £25 to include interval drink
VENUE: The Priory Church, Bolton Abbey, Skipton BD23 6AL

All raffle proceeds to The Priory Church

For tickets and further information please contact:
Carol Dawson, Home Farm, Beamsley, North Yorkshire BD23 6HJ
T: 01756 710258 / 07710 843003 or email: caroldawson26@gmail.com

**SATURDAY
2 SEPTEMBER
2023
7.30PM**

A SEPTEMBER SERENADE

Really excited to be returning to the gorgeous Bolton Abbey Priory Church in Yorkshire for a very special concert.

Guests include tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies, “with his tousled Jonas Kaufmannesque locks and sunny, Italianate lyric tenor” (Opera Magazine), who will be joining the Royal Opera House’s Jette Parker Programme in September this year.

We will also be joined by harpist Ciorstaidh Beaton who trained with me at the Royal Northern College of Music. Ciorstaidh and I are preparing some traditional folk songs from Scotland and Ireland. I’ve always wanted to sing with a harpist and Bolton Abbey will provide the perfect setting.

We’re delighted to welcome award-winning bagpiper Cameron Edgar, who will perform a rendition of the Skye Boat Song from the back of the Abbey (as heard during the late Queen’s funeral). This is sure to be a very memorable experience.

Last but not least, our accompanist will be conductor, pianist, and organist Michael Papadopoulos, who will give a performance on the Priory organ. After hearing Michael give a solo recital on the organ at Westminster Abbey, this is sure to be a special treat! Michael is currently assisting the world’s top opera conductors, including Sir Antonio Pappano, Sir Mark Elder, Mark Wigglesworth, and Harry Bicket at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Garsington Opera and Opera North.

There will be a variety of songs performed inspired by the British Isles, representing the respective heritages of our performers (Wales, Scotland, and England - though we will of course perform some Irish music as well!). We want to celebrate the music that has inspired me and so many others. From English Songs to the Scottish Bagpipes this will be a unique evening with well-known tunes and hopefully some new ones too.

We will also include some of my favourite operatic and musical theatre numbers for all those who adore this music as much as I do.

As many of you know, I have been performing at Bolton Abbey for over ten years now and it has a very special place in my heart. Many of the audience members who have supported me over the years are sadly no longer with us, and I would like to dedicate this concert to them, for loving music and allowing us musicians to bring it to them in their final years.

We look forward to seeing you there!

With love,
Alexandra

**SAVE
THE DATE
02/09/23**

WHY?

Liz Hornby, Co-ordinator, invited her Coffee Ladies, kindly entertaining everyone in the Garden Room, as plans were made for the Coronation Celebration Lunch. Once the business was over, conversation ranged more widely, and the question 'Why?' came up. Why do bad things happen to good people? Do they happen, as people say, 'for a reason'? Longing for meaning is at the heart of human experience, and when everything is going well, it is not difficult to see purpose and meaning. But in the face of suffering, we cry out, 'Why?' and 'Why me?'

Sometimes religious people offer simplistic answers. In the Old Testament, Job's friends jump to conclusions about the source of his suffering. They respond with reasons. God sends calamities upon the wicked; Job has suffered, and therefore he must be wicked. But Job's friends are making a devastating error, generalizing sententiously, but not seeing the intensity of Job's suffering. Job himself resists this false syllogism; he confronts his suffering, but he does not rationalise it. Well-meaning people may say: 'There must be a meaning or a reason for this'. But how can a loving God plan to inflict suffering on us? Anyone who has spent time with a suffering friend knows how very hard it can be to be fully present, without supplying an answer.

In the Gospels of both Mark and Matthew, the only word from the Cross is 'Why?': 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' Both Gospel writers are making the point that Jesus, when he became flesh, entered our struggle to find meaning in the face of apparently meaningless suffering. To say God brought good out of it is not to say God planned it. In our world, bad things just happen, but the heart of the Christian faith is that there is nothing so bad that God cannot bring good out of it.

At a Quiet Day I attended at Parcevall Hall during Holy Week, Revd Andrew Tawn used two metaphors to identify God's role. He said that God is like a jazz musician, always improvising, and secondly, that God is like a chess-player: an opponent makes a move, and God responds. The Resurrection is the ultimate response to that overwhelming experience of hitting rock bottom. On the cross, Jesus chose to remain in solidarity with us. Even as Jesus was laid in the tomb, God, the master chess-player, was working on the next move.

That morning Andrew had written a prayer for the Communion service:

By God's grace,
May every trouble take you deeper into trust,
May every question lead you further on your quest for the truth,
May all your 'whys?' draw you closer to Christ's 'why?'
And through sharing in the mystery of his suffering,
May you also share in the deeper mystery of his risen life.

Joyce Simpson

OUTDOOR THEATRE RETURNS TO BOLTON ABBEY THIS SUMMER!

9 July and 12 August: The Acting Company, Illyria, present:

Saturday 29 July – Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*

Following a shipwreck, Viola is washed-up in Illyria, where her only chance for survival is to make use of her quick wit and fine singing voice, disguising herself as a man and applying to work in the court of Duke Orsino. Illyria presents an evening of yearning romance, music and sheer joy – all performed on a stage inspired by those of the Elizabethan touring troupes.



Saturday 12 August – *Robin Hood*, adapted by Oliver Gray

Featuring tales of camaraderie, good against evil, swashbuckling action, and riotous comedy, this remains one of Illyria’s most popular ever titles. You’ll definitely laugh, you’ll probably cry – and if you’re not cheering at the archery competition involving the entire audience then you must be dead. We also guarantee you will learn new uses for the phrase: “Don’t Do This At Home”.

Both shows: Doors open: **5.00pm**. Show starts: **6.00pm**

Tickets must be booked in advance. Further details and booking via the Bolton Abbey website.



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SCANDAL AT THE PRIORY

The year is 1267 and all is not well at the priory. The prior, William of Tanfield, is clearly out of his depth. At the archbishop's visitation it was found that little attention was being paid to the rules of the order. John of Pomfret, the cellarer, was not much good at his job and, moreover, while the other canons were partaking of their frugal meals, he and his assistant would be enjoying a more sumptuous meal in another room. Some canons didn't bother going to the services. One didn't know the words of the services so couldn't take part. Instead of maintaining silence, conversations were taking place everywhere, even in church. And at the heart of all this was a troublemaker, William Hog, who had been warned by Archbishop Giffard that he must mend his ways or risk being removed to another priory.

William of Tanfield either died or resigned in 1270 and Richard of Bachampton was elected in his place. But Richard must have been too mild a man to deal with all the misbehaviour because, after sticking it out for four years, he decided that he'd had enough of William Hog's unpleasantness and went in person to see the archbishop in his residence in Otley* in order to resign. He was treated sympathetically, allowed to go to live in Ryther, near Selby, where the priory had property and he was given a generous pension to boot.

Not surprisingly, considering that William Hog bullied and intimidated people into doing what he wanted, the canons didn't dare do other than vote for him as their next prior. The archbishop, however, was determined to impose discipline on the priory and arrested two of the canons, though we don't know why. Hog tried to persuade the sheriff of York to get them released. For this the archbishop suspended him, but when he sent a messenger to the priory Hog refused to let him in. The battle between the two then intensified. Hog laid a complaint against the archbishop in the county court at York, a complaint signed by all the canons. However, a hearing in public meant that Hog could no longer intimidate the canons and they dared to tell the truth. Details of the inquiry still exist, and it is quite clear that Hog had bullied the other canons into signing the complaint against the archbishop. The subprior, Roger of Ingoldeby, said that the prior 'used words of inducement, saying, "I shall see who has taken the oath", and afterwards he said with a threat, "I shall see who will consent". And the convent swore in some fear.' The other canons all agreed

with this testimony. As a result of this Hog was removed from office as ‘undeserving’ and as ‘a source of damage’ and the archbishop decreed that he should be removed to another priory. We’re not told where he went and no more is heard of him.

With the election of the next prior, John of Lund, peace descended on the priory once more.

If you look for William Hog’s name on our newly gilded board, you will see that he was prior for less than a year. Now you know why.

*Otley was, for many years, the centre of justice administration in this region. The church was long associated with the administration of justice which is why the Archbishop of York had a residence in Otley. Apparently, probation officers used to be called Church Court Missionaries. The site of the archbishop’s residence on the banks of the Wharfe is still pointed out to visitors on guided tours of the town.

Liz Higgins



Photograph by Adrian Hendley

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WHAT OUR VISITORS SAY

T. S. Eliot called April ‘the cruellest month.’ Chaucer, on the other hand, realised that after the rigours of winter the first signs of spring were a cause for rejoicing. He showed his pilgrims setting off on their journey to Canterbury in merry mood, determined to enjoy themselves. Our visitors seem to agree with Chaucer and have flocked here in their droves in April and May. The warm welcome from our guides has enhanced their experience. Here are some of their comments.

- *In loving memory of Bertie Hedges who visited this church from London every Easter for many years to celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord. God bless him and all our dearly loved deceased family.*
 - The peace was a gift. The candle was a need.
 - *This is a big beautiful church and I love the model you made and the books and I love the red seats.*
 - The grounds and church are beautiful. The area, although busy, is very tranquil. Will be back.
 - *I love how calm it is and the stained glass windows and the model and the shop stuff.*
 - I want to get married here one day.
 - *Love the peace and love the break from a busy life.*
 - Wonderful and so interesting. Good to see it is so well looked after.
 - *Wonderful memories of a wonderful wife.*
 - Great place to be to clear the mind.
 - *I loved the monks’ chanting.*
 - Visiting for the first time with our new son Isaac after getting married here in 2021.
 - *It feels so holy just walking in. The stained glass is immaculate and incredible.*
 - Royal Archaeological Institute, Burlington House, London. 27 members visited. Wonderful.
 - *Happy Chinese Valentine’s Day.*
 - Just lost Mum and needed peace. Amazing.
 - *We love old churches! May the word of the Lord be proclaimed here until He returns!*
 - John was lovely and so was the abbey.
 - *Really appreciate everything the abbey does to praise the God. (A visitor from Taiwan.)*
 - Bolton Priory is our happy place. Thank you for opening your doors.
 - *A stunning place to visit and the ruins still echo the way of life from centuries past through the majestic and tall arches and architectural style.*
 - Beautiful. Can’t think of a more fitting place to celebrate my sobriety date (4 years). Thank you God.
 - *I used to come here as a child with my brother. Happy memories.*
 - Didn’t know the abbey was still used. That was a nice surprise. All the others I’ve seen are ruins.
 - *Richard is a fantastic guide: loads of information. Loved our visit.*
 - Love the St. Cuthbert’s window.
- In April and May we have had visitors from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Syria, Taiwan, Turkey and USA.
- Now that our people counter is working again I can tell you that in April footfall was 10,181 and in May 10,598.
- Liz Higgins*



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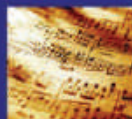
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Artistic Director of Skipton Camerata



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- Bach's Orchestral Suite in D major
- Elgar's Serenade for Strings

Tickets online from 4th June: £15 to include a wine or soft drink.
£5 Under 19s (please buy reduced price tickets on the door).

For details visit www.boltonpriory.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

02 April	Elodie Ward
03 April	William Coe
30 April	Emily Chew
21 May	Sienna and Louis Harrison

MARRIAGE SERVICES

20 April	Christopher Moorhouse and Alison Barton
22 April	Benjamin Shannon and Lucy Hall
06 May	James Coreth and Isabelle Granger
19 May	Andrew Golestani and Sophie Chambers
29 May	Christopher Hart and Alisha Hogan

FUNERAL SERVICE

06 April	Margaret Hellewell
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MEMORIAL SERVICE

27 April	Tim Barker
28 April	Jill Anderson

INTERMENT OF ASHES

27 May	Joanne Alton
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The Wednesday Nighters: Everyone Welcome Bolton Abbey Village Hall, Wednesdays at 19.30

05 July - David Turner will give a presentation about 'The Barden Reservoirs and the People who built them'.

02 August - Neil Hanson will talk about 'The Inn at the Top'. This is about his time as the landlord of the highest public house in England.

06 September - Ruth Nottage, an archaeologist, will tell us about her time helping on a dig at the Roman site 'Kirk Sink Villa' near Gargrave.

If you would like to help with refreshments, please just offer on the night. Cakes are always gratefully received - and eaten.

ROOM WITH A VIEW. NOT.

Now here's an absurd story that I recently came across.

Two men were long-term patients in the same hospital ward. The ward had only one window. One of the men was fit enough to prop himself up, so the nurses gave him the bed next to the window. The other man was mostly flat on his back all day. He therefore had to ask his neighbour what could be seen out of the window. The propped-up patient described a park with a lake on which were ducks and a couple of swans. One day he described children playing football and on another the Spring flowers beginning to show through the borders of the lawns.

At first the bed-ridden patient was grateful for his friend's vivid description of life outside the window. But as the weeks went by his gratitude gave place to jealousy. Why couldn't the nurses swap the beds round once in a while to give him the chance to see the park, the birds, the kiddies and the flowers? After all, with help, he was capable of sitting up for a few minutes most days.

One night there was a kerfuffle on the ward. Doctors and nurses were scurrying to and fro. The curtains around the bed by the window were being opened and closed at regular intervals. By morning the bed was empty. The body removed. With almost indecent haste the other man asked if now he could be switched to the bed by the window. Somewhat reluctantly the nurses agreed to move him. The minute they left the ward the man painfully pushed himself up on one elbow and looked out of the window on to a blank wall.

On one level the story is, as I suggested at the outset, absurd. Taken literally it presents us with one rational and resentful man, and another man delightfully deluded. But that's to miss the point. The story, of course, is really a parable about contrasting attitudes to life. Optimistic or pessimistic. Half full or half empty. Sunny or sullen. There are those who look on the bright side and those who see mostly doom and gloom.

They say life is what you make it. I don't altogether go along with that. It seems to me that some people don't get much of a chance to make much of life. Even so, there's enough truth in the saying for us to know what it means. So may be that 'absurd' story is not so silly after all.

Barry Overend

THANK YOU TO THE PCC AND THE PRIORY COMMUNITY

Thank you so much to everyone for the gifts I received at the Parish AGM to mark my tenure as Editor of the Bolton Abbey Parish Magazine. The engraved paper weight which referenced my time and length of editorship will be treasured. I was very touched to receive this, and it will have a pride of place.

I was extremely fortunate in having a close-knit team. The magazine could not have happened without their valuable input, and I would like to thank in particular: Judy Allen, Margaret Cody, Brenda Sheard, Paul Middleton, Lionel Goodenough, Liz Clayton and Howard Allen for all their help and support over the years.

Please keep your articles coming and support the interim magazine team.

Many thanks,

Val Middleton

BABY BASICS



Unfortunately, the transfer of Baby Basics to the Fortune Church has not worked out, so after a great deal of

effort finding alternative outlets, we are now with the Gianna Project which is under the umbrella of Catholic Care. They take clothes and equipment for babies up to five years. They are incredibly busy. Also, St. Paul's is having an influx of Nigerians, and several are pregnant who need clothes and equipment to cover the early days of a new baby. I am therefore collecting and distributing to both the Gianna Project and the Nigerians.

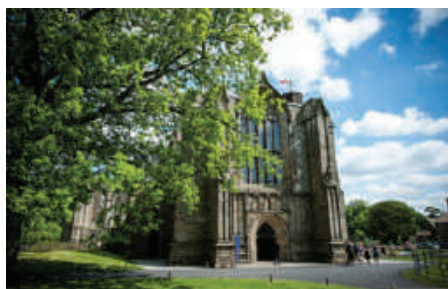
Gianna offers confidential one-to-one support and advice to women and girls during and beyond pregnancy. The service is open to all, and is run by friendly, experienced, and non-judgmental staff.

As always, thank you for all your continued support.

Mary Vineall 01756 753013

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