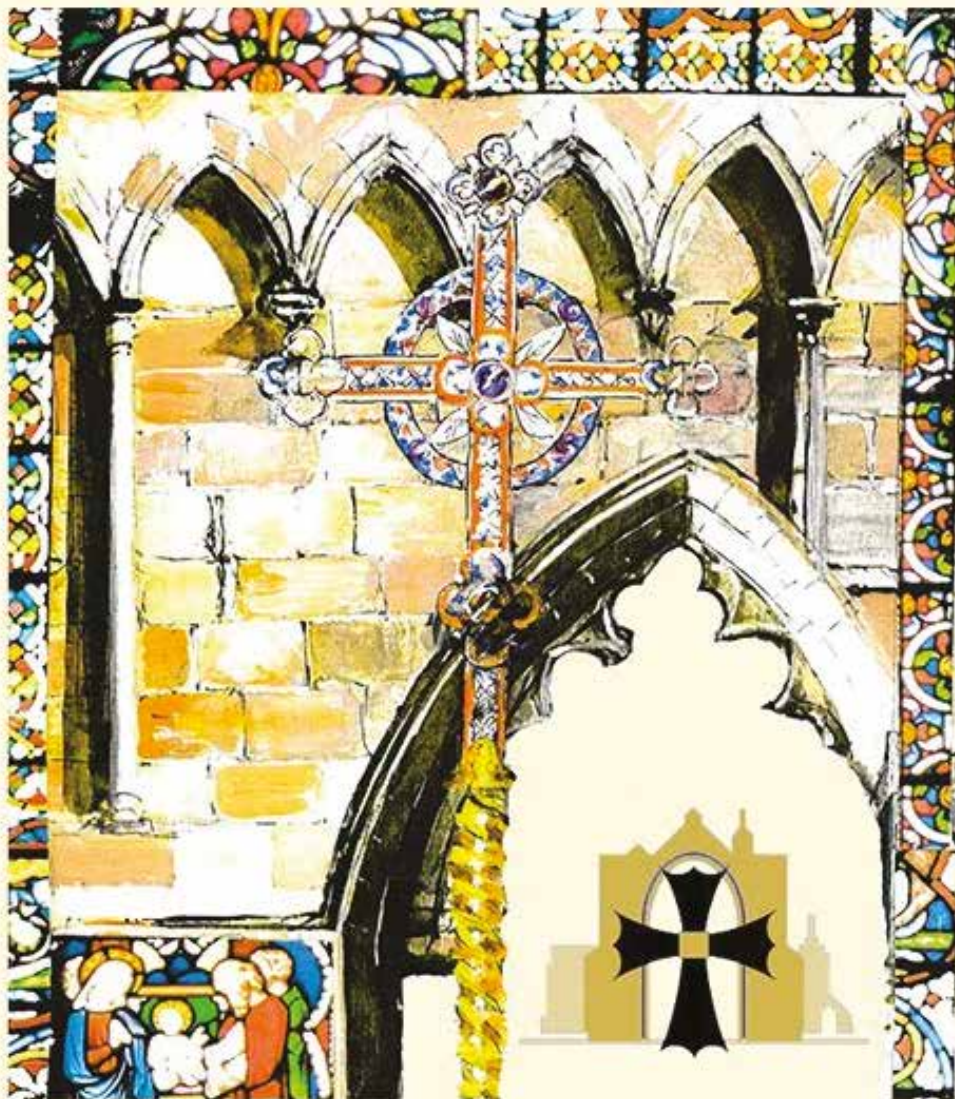


BOLTON ABBEY PARISH MAGAZINE



**JULY · AUGUST
2024**

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The Rector

The Rectory, Bolton Abbey, Skipton BD23 6AL

rector@boltonpriory.org.uk

Website

www.boltonpriory.org.uk

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 |
|-------|----------------|

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS and FUNERALS

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BOLTON ABBEY

SUMMER 2024



Family Cycle Zone
4 May – 29 September



Welly Walk
25 May – 1 November



Pirate Ship and Pop-Up Beach
Summer holidays



Illyria's Romeo and Juliet
27 July



Bat Walk
6 August



Fungal Foray
5 October

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From Revd Nicholas Mercer

The Desert Father St Anthony of Egypt once said '*wherever you go, have God always before your eyes*'. I thought of these words when asked to write the Rector's message on the same day that a General Election was called. By the time this message is read, we will have a new Government running the country.

For reasons which are not immediately clear, a number of passages came to mind when I heard the news. These were not from the *Bible* but from *The Book of Common Prayer* which we have used at Bolton Priory for nearly five hundred years.

The first was the reminder that, above all, as citizens, we owe our allegiance to the Crown. We pray each week that God will rule the heart of his chosen servant and that he may '*above all things seek thy honour and glory*'. In return, we are asked to '*faithfully serve, honour and humbly obey him*'. Whatever Government is in power, we owe our allegiance to the King.

The second passage was from the intercessions. The intercessions ask that we '*may be godly and quietly governed*'. Politics, by its very nature, can be turbulent. However, the exhortation to be '*godly and quietly governed*' seems a wonderful aspiration for our national life whoever takes office in July.

The final passage was from the funeral service. Not because the election marks the end of anything, but it is a timely reminder that the things of this world are transient and that, ultimately, we will all have '*our perfect consummation and bliss in God's eternal and everlasting glory*'. Everything should be seen in perspective.

I don't know what will happen by the time this message is published. Nevertheless, as St Anthony said, we should always have '*God before our eyes*'. *The Book of Common Prayer*, first appearing in 1549, continues to serve us well as it has done almost since the Priory Church came into being in 1539.

Nicholas

MY JOURNEY, BY ALEXANDRA LOWE

In 2008 I moved over to the UK from Mallorca to study at Winstanley College and the Junior Royal Northern College of Music where I was awarded a scholarship to begin my training in music and singing. I had joined an amateur dramatics group in Palma at the age of 13 where I had discovered my love for performing and I knew, in my heart, by the age of 15 this was something I wanted to pursue professionally. My parents and I agreed that I had to move to the UK to explore my options.

After a few months of training, I received Carol's phone call. I remember nervously sitting around the kitchen table with my parents as I began to negotiate my first ever fee. I calmly said that my fee would be £150, which Carol agreed was fine and we arranged a meeting. As Carol says, we hit it off right away and she booked me for her Ball.

The Ball was wonderful, and Carol and the guests just completely admired my performance. It was a very encouraging first professional engagement and, I must say, I enjoyed the fact I was being paid to sing! This is when our partnership started.

My father asked Carol if she would help to promote me and to build up a network over here in the UK. Carol said she was delighted to be on board and agreed to become my official manager. We instantly clicked and we went on to explore many musical opportunities across the UK.

It's hard to explain to people what Carol and I have achieved over the years, because I really don't know anyone else in my industry that has had someone by their side to support and encourage them in the way that Carol has done. I feel so incredibly lucky to have met her when I did. I was young and didn't really know where I was heading, but Carol guided me beautifully as I matured into a professional opera singer. I sang at all sorts of events, from weddings to solo recitals and concerts at stunning venues like the famous 'Painted Hall' at Chatsworth House. It really shaped me into the artist I am today.

We have compiled a list of all the events Carol went on to organise, or I was involved with, and as you will see in the concert programme, it is quite a list! We started with a solo concert at the Grassington Fringe Festival, which was a great promoter for the initial concerts, then we branched out to organise our own concerts which were focused on raising money for different charities. In 2010, I met musical theatre tenor, Christian Lunn, from Harrogate, who for a few years became my partner in many concerts in the region. After that, whilst I was training at the Royal Northern College of Music, I brought many of my colleagues along to make guest appearances at the concerts, many of whom are fulfilling their dreams in their own careers.

When I moved to London in 2017, I had to take a step back from my Yorkshire showcases, as I was very busy with my training at the Guildhall School of Music and British Youth Opera. By this time, I had also started performing lead roles within the operatic world at Nevill Holt Opera, Clonter Opera and Grange Park Opera. Then in 2019 I was fortunate to join the National Opera Studio, which of course was cut short due to Covid, and finally my biggest achievement to date was in 2020 when I started my two-year contract with the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Here highlights include my performances as Second Niece in Deborah Warner's new production of *Peter Grimes* under Sir Mark Elder, Barbarina in

Le Nozze di Figaro under Sir Antonio Pappano, and First Lady in David McVicar's celebrated production of *Die Zauberflöte*.

Since launching my career in 2022 as a freelance opera singer, I have appeared as Donna Elvira in John Ramster's new production of *Don Giovanni* under Risto Joost for Norway's Kilden Opera; as Fifth Maid in *Elektra* marking my debut with Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia under Sir Antonio Pappano; and in both Mozart's *Requiem* and Bolognesi's *L'Amante Anonyme* at Glyndebourne Opera, under Stephanie Childress.



*Shared joy in Alexandra's triumph as leading lady in *Cosi Fan Tutte**

This season, I returned to Glyndebourne Opera as Donna Elvira in Mariame Clément's production of *Don Giovanni*, conducted by Stephanie Childress, and more recently made my debut at Opera North as Fiordiligi in *Così Fan Tutte* under Clemens Schuldt. I have also enjoyed many concert collaborations with the Academy of Ancient Music, Laurence Cummings; Scottish Opera, Stuart Stratford; Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, Marios Papadopoulos; and Opera North Orchestra, Jonathan Bloxham.

Since finishing my training, I have been able to give more of my time to Carol and our concert series at The Priory, Bolton Abbey, with a particular focus on raising much needed funds to keep this special place going. The Priory is one of my very favourite engagements where I always feel relaxed and welcome, the acoustic is absolutely sublime, and more recently, we have even hired a grand piano from Yorkshire Pianos in Beamsley to really add something special to the music-making side of things. It's a complete and utter joy to perform in the unbeatable setting that is The Priory.

From both Alexandra and Carol

This coming summer we have something very exciting planned, bigger and better than anything we've done before. We have been asked by Reverend Nicholas Mercer, to organise The Last Night of the Proms to raise funds for the Priory Church. This will take place on the evening of Friday, 16 August, on the private lawn of The Hall, Bolton Abbey, by kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. I will be performing with the incredible tenor, Ryan Vaughan Davies, and the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ben Crick. This will be an 'elegant and exclusive' event and not to be missed! Please see the advertisement in this issue of the Parish Magazine.

This is only the first chapter of Our Story. The groundwork is done! Now on to the next chapter as the 'Opera World' is calling for Alexandra Lowe. To everyone that has supported us over the last 15 years, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks and to those that are no longer with us, we shall never forget you.

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

Join soprano Alexandra Lowe and the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra for an exclusive musical evening under the stars celebrating the Last Night of the Proms.

FRIDAY 16TH AUGUST

On the private lawn, The Hall, Bolton Abbey, by kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

Raising monies for the Priory Church

Led by rising-star soprano Alexandra Lowe and upcoming Welsh tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies. They will be joined by sought-after conductor Ben Crick and the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra.

Garden Opens 5.30pm for Picnics
Concert Starts 7.30pm for 10pm Finish

Tickets: £50 each
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VIP Tickets: £250 each
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For details, tickets or to help sponsor this event, contact Carol Dawson

M:07710 843003 | E: caroldawson26@gmail.com

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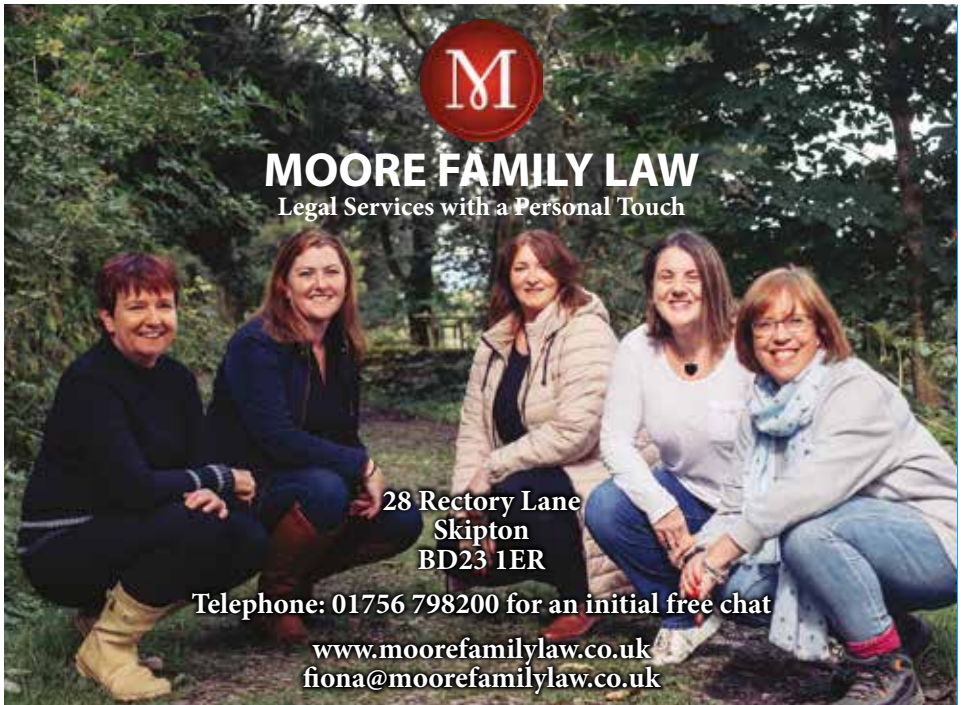
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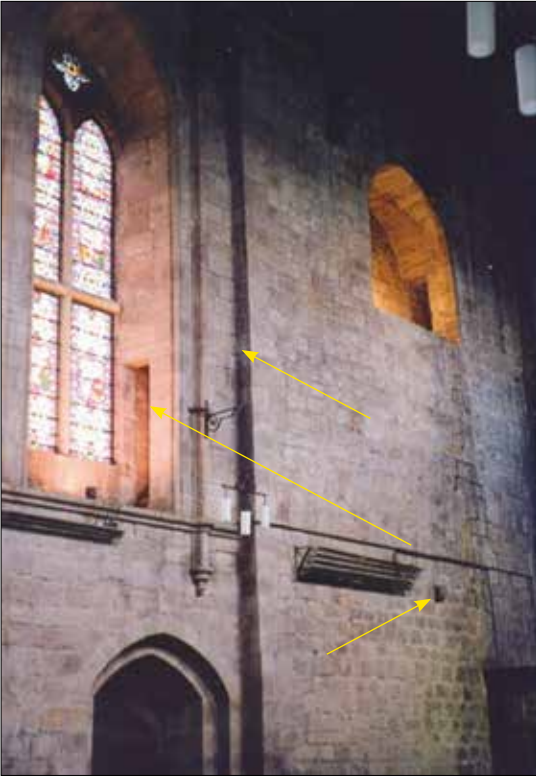
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THE PRIOR'S GALLERY?

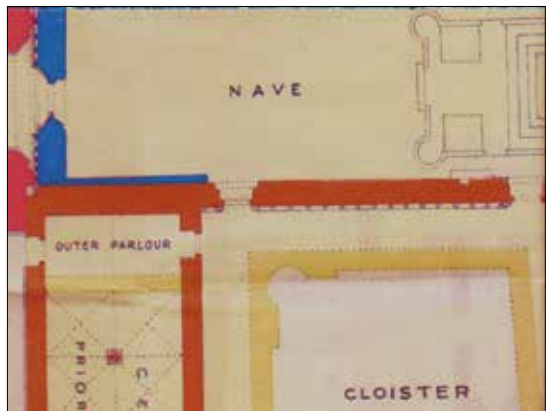


The alcove, the bulge in the wall, the staircase and the corbel

High in the south west corner of the nave of Bolton Priory there is a mysterious structure known as the alcove. Among the last parts of the Priory Church to appear, it was built in about 1240, nearly a century after the foundation. We do not know why it was built, but it has recently been suggested that a row of smaller stones along its lower border indicate that it has been altered, perhaps because it once had a bay which projected over the nave. Much lower on the wall below the centre of the alcove there is a solitary stone block or corbel, which could once have held a beam to support this bay; if so it would have harmonised with three adjacent pillars, the

first of which can be seen to the right of the window. It is also suggested that the alcove once housed a bell for use during the Eucharist, but there is no physical or documentary evidence to support this theory.

There is however another possibility. To understand this one must remember that the nave was built after most of the other buildings, including the cloister. It was originally



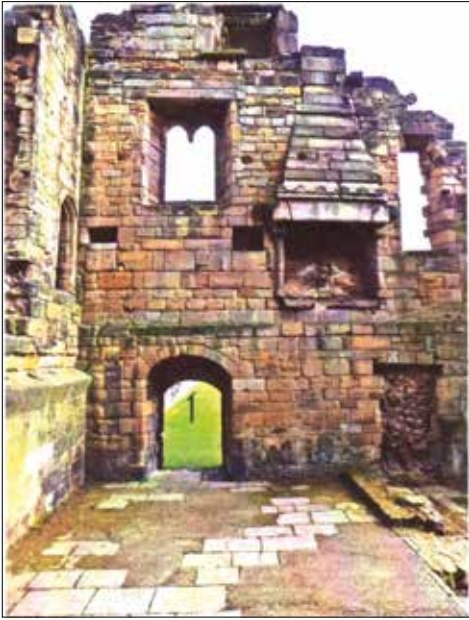
Plan of development of west front and wall containing alcove

intended that the west wall of the nave would be just beyond the south-west door into the cloister (red dotted line) and that the north wall of the cloister (thick red line) would form the south wall of the nave and support the six lanceolate windows. But such was the demand for space that the west front had to be moved back beyond the end of the west range, which would have left its gable visible within the church. To avoid this the new west wall was extended to cover the gable end of the west range – part of the outer parlour and the Prior's room (thin blue line). This produced the obvious bulge in the inner wall of the church and allowed the building of a narrow stairway that runs from the pathway below the windows up to the mysterious alcove. From there the stairway runs down again to the passage below the west window.

The alcove is in this wall covering the west range, near the north wall of the Prior's quarters. Alterations to the brickwork 'suggest that there may once have been a door there, but 'as it was immediately below the roof of the west cloister it only served to provide ventilation.' But the top and bottom borders of the alcove are in line with the upper section of the adjacent window which, as seen from outside, would fit within the outline of the original steeply pitched roof on the wall. Viewed from the cloister it is indeed evident that the stonework in the midline (i.e. under the drainpipe) has been disturbed, and at one point a horizontal line of small stones is broken. It therefore seems that there could have been a serviceable link between the two.

There are several churches in which such a gallery exists, but most are overlooking the chancel or a shrine. There is however a hint of something like the Bolton alcove in what remains of the great Blackfriars Monastery near St. Paul's – the scene of the hearing of Henry VIII's divorce case before Cardinal Campeggio. Although destroyed in the Reformation, it remained a sanctuary from the civil authorities and city guilds for beggars, fugitives and foreign workmen. It also provided rich pickings for favoured aristocrats one of whom, Lord Cobham, built a house incorporating part of the church and the guest house (now part of the Apothecaries' Hall). Careful examination has revealed the remains of what is described as 'a closet wyndowe giving a view of the church' in the south west corner of the remains of the nave.

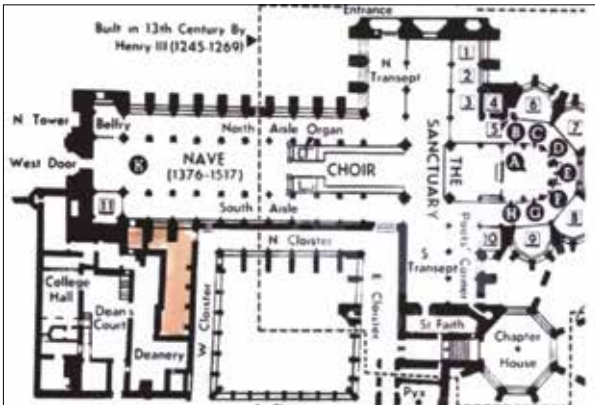
Monk Bretton priory near Barnsley contains an even more interesting relic. Here much of the west range adjoining the church has survived, and it is



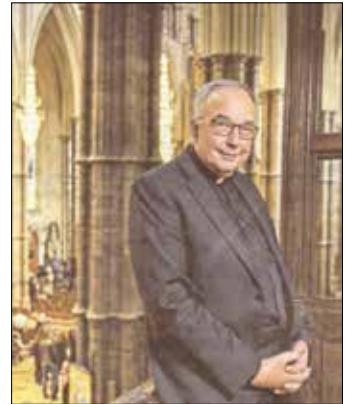
Monk Bretton – outer parlour and (above) Prior's room on first floor with doorway to nave

possible to look through the outer parlour into the cloister. The roof has gone, but above that level, in the prior's room, a fireplace and a window looking into the cloister remain. But on the north wall there is an intact doorway opening into the south west corner of the nave, just where the Bolton alcove is situated.

There is even one such structure still in use (although rarely noticed) – in Westminster Abbey. The deanery at Westminster stands next to the south west corner, and alongside the famous Jerusalem Chamber is a room which ends in a balcony overlooking the nave. It was built by



The Dean's pew overlooking the nave of Westminster Abbey



Dean Islip (he of the rebus) early in the 16th. century, and there is a picture of Dean John Hall seated on the balcony overlooking the nave. It therefore seems possible that, when building the new nave, the Prior was provided with a gallery adjacent to his study from which he could watch services in the church.

Malcolm Parsons

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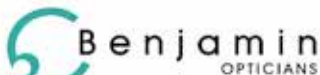


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THE STORY OF BOLTON ABBEY PARISH MAGAZINE

This magazine was first issued in 1884 when the Rector was The Reverend A. P. Howes. Each magazine cost him one penny and three farthings and was sold on for two pennies. It has continued to be published monthly until and including April 2023, after which it has been issued bi-monthly, though for years the December and January magazines have been combined. Past copies of the magazine are kept in the Parish Office.

The arrangements for printing the magazine have changed over the years. Originally, it was produced completely in the Parish Office. In the 1980s when Peter Watkins was Editor, Gill Holme photocopied each page, and then assembled them into a magazine. 200 copies were produced.

In 1993 Peter Nelmes became Editor. It was then that there was a production change lasting to the present time. Peter was supported by a team including Edmund Butler who had the expertise to persuade several companies to advertise in the magazine. The income from these advertisers enabled the magazine to be printed professionally and more copies were produced, enough for members of the congregation and each household in the Parish to receive a free copy. A member of the team took the master copy to a printer in Grassington and later collected the 500 copies. The required number of magazines was taken to various people in the Parish who delivered a copy to each household in their area. Magazine distribution is still the work of several volunteers whose supportive efforts are very much appreciated. Magazines were and are set aside for members of the congregation and made available at all services. The magazine may also be obtained by postal subscription and can be accessed online.

When Peter Nelmes resigned because of ill health, Adrienne Thomson became Editor for 7 years. She was succeeded by Val Middleton who changed the production again. The magazine was produced in Publisher and sent electronically to a Bradford printer and then delivered to the Parish by courier. After fifteen years of sterling work as Editor, Val and her team retired in 2023. Joyce Simpson is our present Editor, and the production of the magazine from a sound financial basis is expertly managed by Liz Clayton. The magazine has again moved with the times and for the past year the printed copies have been produced in colour. 600 magazines are now distributed to various outlets, including the two schools in the Parish.

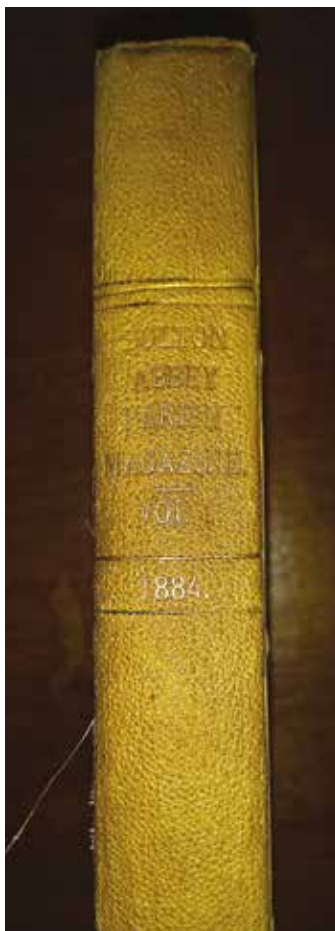
During the long life of the magazine many changes have taken place. When Peter, Adrienne and Val were Editors, they were supported by a team including the Deputy Editor, Proof Reader (s), the Parish Administrator and a committee member to oversee the distribution. Joyce is well supported by Liz, by all who contribute articles or photographs, by the distributors, and by Aurora who posts the magazine online.

Each Editor varied the contents and style of the magazine, but certain items

have always appeared, including the Rector's letter, the Parish Diary, the Priory Directory, the Parish Registers, with details of Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals, and usually the PCC minutes. The Editor always values and is grateful for contributions from members of the congregation, reflecting variously the life and interests of the community. A regular feature is 'What our Visitors Say', gathered and edited by Liz Higgins, sharing often moving responses from visitors who come from all over the world as well as from our own locality and who care to write in The Visitors' Book.

So, we rejoice in the fine tradition of our Parish Magazine, and that it continues to play an important part in keeping us informed about life and events at the Priory and more widely, in the Parish, as well as offering various items of interest. Long may the magazine be published and available to us all.

Adrienne Thomson and Betty Nelmes



This is how the Revd A.P. Howes began Bolton Abbey Parish Magazine, in January 1884.

The object of a Magazine in any Parish is to give a clergyman a channel of communication with his parishioners, through which he may speak of matters not befitting the pulpit, and to enable him to announce any changes or plans in a way less liable to be misunderstood than notices in church, and which will reach absentees as well as church-goers. It is, moreover, a bond of union of all parishioners, reminding all alike that each has a common interest in every thing that is done for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the whole community. In a parish which covers about 40 square miles it is impossible that a clergyman can visit distant houses so often as he would wish. A parish of such dimensions must hinder frequent visits. And I regret that I have not been able to reach the more distant houses during the past year so frequently as I have been inclined. I feel, therefore, that by a monthly magazine I can speak more often to my far-away friends, and in the central pages send a few words of advice and help in living out the short span of man's life after a manner worthy of one who has been called by God into his kingdom on earth with the priceless promise of participating, if each lives in His fear and love, in the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.



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IN PURSUIT OF JAMES ELROY FLECKER (1884-1915)

“For lust of knowing what should not be known, We make the Golden Journey to Samarkand.”

When we arrived at Bolton Priory five years ago, all three of our children were still at boarding school and we were in the midst of school fees and all other related expenses. Five years later, two of our children are in gainful employment with only one left in full time education and we feel somewhat better off than we have done for many years! I have always wanted to travel to Uzbekistan and at Christmas saw a trip advertised and duly signed up. Three months later we were flying to Tashkent on Uzbekistan airlines, ready and eager to see part of the Silk Road, which was immortalised by James Elroy Flecker who wrote the line: ‘We make the Golden Journey to Samarkand.’

The reason Flecker and his immortal line had stayed in my mind was that, once upon a time, I was the Secretary of the Flecker Society. It was during my time at Uppingham School where James Elroy Flecker had also been a pupil in 1901 before going up to Cambridge University to study Oriental languages in preparation for a career in the Consular Service. He died very young at the age of just thirty-one and his death was described as ‘the greatest premature loss that English literature has suffered since the death of Keats’.

Despite his untimely death, Flecker was a prolific poet and was influenced by the Parnassian poets who selected exotic and neo-classical subjects as their subject matter. I was given a copy of his poetry as a gift to mark five years at Bolton Priory and it was our companion on the journey. I don’t think that Flecker ever visited Samarkand, or indeed Uzbekistan, but we found many of the references in his poetry reassuringly accurate. Indeed, we found ‘Indian carpets dark as wine’ together with ‘broideries of intricate design’. Spices were piled high, and we were able to purchase some dark red Afghan saffron. The calligraphy was exquisite, and, in Bukhara, we purchased some scissors engraved with storks who make their nests on houses. The finest line of all for me was the reference to ‘sweet jams meticulously jarred as God’s own prophet eats in paradise’. A wonderful array of fruit abounded in the bazaars and markets stalls as well as gracing our hotel breakfasts.

Flecker wrote:

We are the Pilgrims, master; we shall go
Always a little further: it may be
Beyond the last blue mountain barred with snow,
Across that angry or that glimmering sea.

We are so pleased that we too went 'a little further' and finally made 'the Golden Journey to Samarkand'.

Nicholas and Aurora Mercer



Reverend N J Mercer, Shah-i-Zinda



A well earned rest at Shah-i-Zinda!



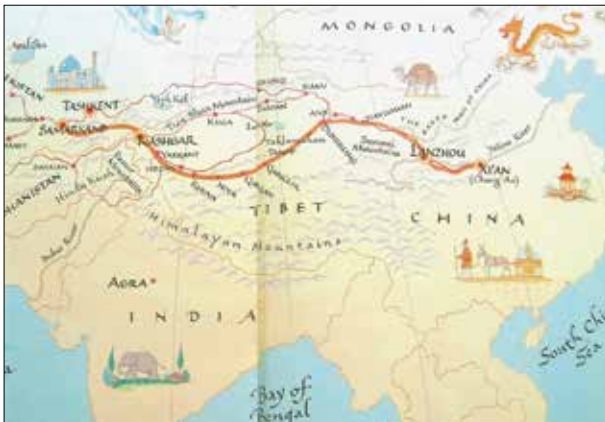
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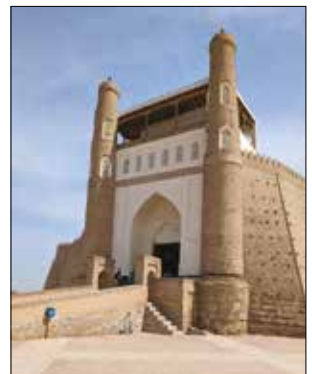
Registan Square, Samarkand



*The Mausoleum of Amir Temur
(Tamerlane)*



The Golden Journey to Samarkand



The Ark of Bukhara

EDWARD VIII - Part 2

Continuing the series on Five Monarchs

In the early 1930s Edward met an American woman named Wallis Simpson who had been divorced. She and her husband became members of the social scene, and some years later were invited to Edward's home, Fort Belvedere. A friendship developed leading to a more intimate relationship between Mrs Simpson and Edward, and as was said, 'the line was crossed between friendship and love'. Whilst this was not widely known at first, it seemed to become a source for newspaper speculation following a sermon by the Bishop of Bradford, Alfred Blunt, in which he decried the behaviour of some in London Society and their morals.

Matters became political when Edward let it be known that he was determined to marry Mrs Simpson and remain King. Practically and ecclesiastically, this was impossible. When the Prime Minister stated as much, he received the response that the King now intended to abdicate in favour of the next in line to the throne, his brother Albert, who would become King George VI. Baldwin told the King that a marriage with a divorced woman whose two husbands were still living would not 'receive the approbation of the country'. Edward replied, 'I want you to be the first to know that I have made up my mind and nothing will alter it. I mean to abdicate to marry Mrs. Simpson'. 'Sir, this is a very grave decision, and I am deeply grieved,' said Baldwin and left. The King then dined with his mother, Queen Mary, and the Princess Royal and announced his decision, which was received with shock.

On 3 December the British press told its readers what the rest of the world had known for weeks, and the country was thrown into the thick of a constitutional crisis. The next day in the House of Commons the Prime Minister told Parliament: 'Suggestions have appeared in certain organs of the Press yesterday and again today, that, if the King decided to marry, his wife need not become queen. These ideas are without foundation. There is no such thing as what is called morganatic marriage known to our law. The lady whom he marries, by fact of her marriage to the King, necessarily becomes queen. The only way in which this result could be avoided would be by legislation dealing with a particular case. His Majesty's Government are not prepared to introduce such legislation.'

At Fort Belvedere on 19 December 1936 the dukes of York, Gloucester and Kent arrived to witness their brother sign the Instrument of Abdication. The next evening Edward had a farewell dinner with his family, including his brother who was now George VI, and then he made his famous broadcast to the nation which his supporter, Winston Churchill, is said to have helped

him to compose.

‘You all know the reasons which have impelled me to renounce the throne,’ he said, ‘but I want you to understand that in making up my mind I did not forget the country or the Empire which, as Prince of Wales, and lately as King, I have for twenty-five years tried to serve. But you must believe me when I tell you that I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as King as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love.’



Photo courtesy of the BBC

At midnight Edward said goodbye to his brothers, bowing to the new sovereign and left for Portsmouth where HMS Fury waited to carry him across the Channel into exile.

After the Abdication, Edward was created Duke of Windsor and thereafter lived mostly in France. In 1940 at the time of the fall of France, the Duke escaped from Paris to Lisbon, and was then appointed Governor of the Bahamas, a position he held until 1945.

James Turnbull



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JULY

| | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| 02 Tuesday | | The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 03 Wednesday | | St Thomas |
| | 10.45 | The Phoenix Singers to sing in Church |
| 06 Saturday | 13.00 | Marriage Service for Ben Fawcett and Charlotte Burrows |
| 07 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 6 |
| | 09.15 | Liquid Family Service |
| 10 Wednesday | 10.45 | The Phoenix Singers in Church |
| 13 Saturday | 19.30 | Priory Concert Series Settle Orchestra |
| 14 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 7 |
| | 10.30 | Service of Licensing of the Reverend Tony Cantlow by the Bishop of Ripon |
| 21 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 8 |
| | 12.00 | Interment of Ashes, Cynthia Heseltine |
| 23 Tuesday | 13.30 | Marriage Service for Tyler Davis and Emma Williams |
| 25 Thursday | 13.00 | Marriage Service for Kelvin Charles and Charlotte Bridge |
| 26 Friday | 19.30 | Lady Clare's Consort: Musicke Divine |
| 28 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 9 |
| | 12.00 | Interment of Ashes, Keith Feather |

AUGUST

| | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
| 04 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 10 |
| | 12.00 | Holy Baptism Louie Devanny |
| 06 Tuesday | | The Transfiguration of Our Lord |
| 11 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 11 |
| 15 Thursday | | The Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 16 Friday | 19.30 | The Last Night of the Proms |

| | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| 18 SUNDAY | 10.30 | Holy Communion with Holy Baptism Romilly Haviland |
| 24 Saturday | | St Bartholomew |
| 25 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 13 |
| | 12.00 | Holy Baptism Arthur and Charlie Durden |
| 28 Wednesday | 12.30 | Marriage Service for Sam Cooledge and Danielle Lewis |
| 31 Saturday | 13.00 | Marriage Service for Charles Higgs and Lydia Smith |

SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
| 01 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 14 |
| | 09.15 | Liquid Family Service |
| 07 Saturday | 09.00 | Meeting for those wishing to marry at the Priory |
| | 13.00 | Marriage Service for William Clarke and Sarah Heseltine |
| 08 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 15 |
| 14 Saturday | | Holy Cross Day |
| 15 SUNDAY | | TRINITY 16 |

Please note the information given for the diary is correct at the time of going to press but please check with the Priory church website in case of any changes and/or additions - boltonpriory.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

| | |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| 19 May | Oriana Rae Minchella Hunter |
| 26 May | Isla Rose Hawkins |

MARRIAGE SERVICE

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 06 April | Gbolahan Ladipo and Charlotte Dooley |
| 20 April | Edward Barnes and Louise Ellison |
| 17 May | Ramez Ibrahim and Juliet Lancaster |
| 25 May | Daniel Nelson and Alison Daggett |

FUNERAL SERVICE

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 25th April | Keith Charles Faraday Simpson |
|------------|-------------------------------|

INTERMENT OF ASHES

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| 22 May | Peter Riley |
| 29 May | Elizabeth Lewis |



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Bolton Priory Remembers with Affection

*Editor, drawing from eulogies delivered at the funerals of
Sheila, Keith Feather and Keith Simpson*

Sheila Sharples (1932 – 2024)



Sheila was born in Sedbergh, and had three brothers, but she was the only girl in the family. She was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Kirkby Lonsdale, succeeding academically and as an excellent sports woman who played hockey for Yorkshire. Sheila graduated from the Yorkshire Ladies Secretarial College in Leeds, with typing speeds of 140 words per minute in French and 160 words per minute in English. She became a secretary in the Preston branch of the Westminster Bank.

There she met her future husband, Jeffrey, and then became the 'Director of Household', looking after her husband and their three sons exceedingly well. Jeffrey was ambitious, a high-flier, who worked long hours and became a very senior NatWest Manager. He benefited from a well-run home where he could relax and enjoy his family.

Sadly, in 1981 Jeffrey suddenly passed away, the day after the family had attended a service at Bolton Priory. The family was devastated, and Sheila became a widow and single parent at the too-early age of 48. Her sons had lost a wonderful role model and mentor. Hard years followed, but Sheila and her boys all pulled together to cope with loss and meet adult responsibilities. She was the best mother they could have wished for, and the love she gave was second to none.

Sheila drew strength and comfort from her faith and gave so much to the Priory. With her sons, Nicholas, David and Jonathan, she regularly attended Sunday Communion Services with Canon Slaughter. Sheila was a valued Priory Guide, and a gifted needle woman who made two of our tapestry kneelers. On Mondays Sheila did collection counting. In the best Priory tradition, she baked cakes for cake stalls and Priory events. The family recalls that the Archbishop of York complimented her luscious lemon cake when he came in 2014 to celebrate the Priory's 150th Anniversary as an independent Parish.

As time allowed, Sheila worked at building sustaining friendships; she played badminton and tennis, and later took up Bridge. The rituals of Bridge and afternoon tea meant a lot to her, and she was a fiercely competitive player. But a great joy in Sheila's life was the arrival of grandchildren: Louise in 1989, followed by Eleanor and William. In later years Sheila was never happier than when sharing time with her grandchildren, and her bond with them from being babies through to the adults they are today never wavered. Strong affection and encouragement marked Sheila's relationship with her close family, and her sons were close to her to the end of her journey. She is dearly missed, and her memory is fondly cherished.



Keith Feather (1935 - 2024)



Many of Keith's Priory friends will understand how a little granddaughter could write during his final illness: 'You are very special to me, Gaga. You are one of the nicest, funniest and bravest people I've ever met. You mean more to me than I could ever explain. All I can say is that to me you are more than a grandpa I have to see, and smile while I have to listen to some boring story. You are brave, kind and never give up. You are no ordinary grandpa. You are number one.'

Keith was born in Keighley, and at the beginning of World War II was only four. He remembered his mother lying on top of him while the German Dornier bombers flew overhead towards Liverpool. He never forgot rationing, the outside toilet, the Sunday night weekly bath ritual in front of the fire in a tin bath that hung up on a door the rest of the week. Difficult times, but they forged his remarkable personality. After Keighley Grammar School, Keith did National Service and was stationed at RAF Dishforth.

He was ordered to drive a three-tonne canvas back truck behind a jet as it was taking off. Despite Keith waiting the required time after take-off, the truck was knocked over by the jet wash. Jets were new and the regulations had not been

changed. Jumping out of the truck, Keith had the presence of mind to switch off the fuel isolator, preventing the incineration of the truck. He received a commendation for his quick thinking.

Keith met his wife, Katie, in the cafeteria of Brown Muffs department store in Bradford and they were married in 1962. Keith had a passion for work and his career in textiles brought prosperity, and in time the family made their home at Redwalls, where Keith lived for 50 years. Recently he was asked why so much of his house was still buried under mountains of cloth, and his response was: 'I just love cloth, I love the feel of it, I love the smell of it. I just like being with it.' The house had great facilities, but the young folk were expected to contribute. During the school holidays, they would have orders, to creosote the paddock fence, or sweep the back drive.

A friend summed him up: 'Your father was an immense personality and a great character. Fortright in his views, down to earth and full of common sense. He generated great respect, loyalty and affection. I cannot think of a better template for a Yorkshireman.'

Keith lived fifteen years after the death of his beloved wife. Her last words to him were: 'Look after the children and make sure you keep working'. He certainly did that.



Keith Simpson (1933-2024)



Regular worshippers at the Sunday morning service in the Priory miss seeing Keith alongside Ann, his dear wife, in their accustomed pew. Keith was a dedicated member of the Priory community, and most recently served as Secretary to the Friends of Bolton Priory, retiring after seven years' service in late 2022. Jill Riley described Keith as a wonderfully efficient and wise secretary, commenting that his contribution had been second to none. Jill affirmed that she could not possibly have done her job without his friendship, advice and attention to detail.

Keith left home before his 16th birthday to join what was then the Yorkshire Penny Bank. He remembered that his first job was filling ink wells and making sure everyone's desk had clean blotting paper. For the last 12 years of his career, he was part of the triumvirate that ran one of the most successful banks in Europe. Keith played a central role in creating the culture that was the foundation for that success.

Keith took great pride in knowing his people; who they were mattered to him, and his capacity to recall each of them by name created a lasting positive impression. He treated his colleagues with respect, made them feel valued, showed them he cared, and wanted them to succeed. He was a universally admired and respected colleague and leader. In return those colleagues who flourished under his guidance and leadership were proud to say that they worked for him. Keith took great delight and genuine pride in their achievements, but never sought to claim the credit for himself.

Similarly, with his sons and grandsons, he did not boast of their achievements, whether academic, sporting, or in business. But the photos on his desk and around the flat told you everything you needed to know. Keith was incredibly proud of his family, as they of him. They will remember him as a generous, loving, supportive Dad, but also recall a life well lived that included family celebrations and meals together, adventurous holidays, and watching sport together. They fondly recall his idiosyncrasies: his morning Kitkat; his insistence that no one else could do the washing up or load the dishwasher quite so well as he did; or his insisting that he needed help collecting the fish and chips on a Saturday evening, so that father and son could enjoy a pint together. 'But don't tell your mother.'

Keith's dry sense of humour combined with a writing style that prioritised brevity produced some memorable lines. In the early 80s, son Richard went to university and was having such a good time that he failed to call home. After 6 weeks he received a one sentence letter: 'Your mother would like to hear from you.'

Keith Charles Faraday Simpson MBE was kind, courteous, warm-hearted, generous with his time and generous of spirit. A true gentleman.



REFURBISHMENT WORK STARTS ON THE HISTORIC STEPPING STONES



River Wharfe & Stepping Stones & Bolton Abbey

The careful process of refurbishing and restoring the ancient stepping stones which cross the River Wharfe opposite Bolton Priory has begun. Once the ancient right of way for the Augustinian monks going to and from the Priory, the 57 stones have become steeped in nostalgia for generations of visitors who have enjoyed using them to cross the river. Records show the stepping stones standing proud before the first bridge was built in 1899 and it is believed that the workmen who built it were entertained with a 'knife and fork tea' in the Rectory garden. More recently, multiple storms have taken their toll. Consultation between the Bolton Abbey Estate and numerous parties has been undertaken prior to commencing the work, which is guided by the reproduction and migratory seasons of fish. This is to ensure there is no disruption to the local spawning salmonid fish which include brown trout and the wily grayling. A more detailed report will follow in the next magazine once work has commenced.

Devonshire Group

SILVER CELEBRATIONS AT THE DEVONSHIRE FELL.



The Devonshire Fell

On Saturday, 29th June, the Devonshire Fell at Burnsall celebrated 25 years since re-opening, with a summer barbeque party which was open to all. The building had been bought by Devonshire Hotels and Restaurants, a group of luxury hotels and boltholes on the Chatsworth and Bolton Abbey Estates.

Originally an Edwardian gentlemen's club and then a Dales hotel and pub, The Duchess of Devonshire (when she was Lady Hartington)

led the design team in the innovation of the Dales' first "boutique hotel". Features included model sheep on the flat roof over the restaurant, fish tanks incorporated above the wc cisterns and striking original paintings. Twenty five years on changes have seen the removal of sheep and fish, whilst today a symbolic 'birds in flight' rail leads up to the front door, Kitty North's original artwork adorns the walls and new rooms have been added. Open all day for drinks, teas, coffees and cakes plus Yorkshire grills and fish in the new 'all day dining' bistro with its breathtaking views across the river, the pretty village of Burnsall and up to the hills.

Devonshire Group

SUNDAYS AFTER TRINITY

Depending on the date of Easter there are 20 or more Sundays after Trinity Sunday, this year celebrated on May 26. Liturgically, this is 'Ordinary Time' and stretches across summer and autumn until 'The Sunday Next before Advent'. Lasting nearly six months, this is the longest season of the Church's year, and in it we walk the steady path of discipleship. We journey inward (strengthening our connection to Christ) and journey outwards (in love for others), all in the context of our life together as the Church. Green is the liturgical colour for 'Ordinary Time', and at Bolton Priory we shall see a good deal of a beautiful green altar frontal donated by the late Margaret Hellewell, in loving memory of her husband.

One prayer for this season is the Collect for Trinity 13, in Common Worship, based (as many good collects are) on a Biblical text. This Collect, composed by David Silk, is based on 2 Corinthians 5:18-19: 'All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.' (NRSV) And here is the Collect:

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Editor

HARTLEYS

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AUGUST 28TH: FEAST DAY OF ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

For nearly 400 years the Regular Canons of Bolton Priory kept as a solemn feast the anniversary of the death of St. Augustine of Hippo, who died on August 28th in the year AD430. Life at Bolton Priory was ordered by the Rule Augustine had written as a guide for communities of Christians wishing to live out the Gospel together in mutual support. Upon his return to Thagaste in North Africa, after his baptism by Ambrose in Milan, Augustine founded a new community of laymen with whom he shared life and prayer. Later as bishop he invited his priests to share a community life with him. The Rule expresses his ideas for living as an intentional religious community.

The Rule of Augustine is brief, but its precepts go to the root of what is needed for life in community to flourish. The Rule of Augustine is the oldest monastic rule in the Western Church, and it spread quickly as a guide for communities of Christians. The Rule of Augustine insists that the community must live in harmony, 'being of one mind and heart on the way to God'. The most fundamental message of the Rule is this: Love -- love of God, love of neighbour – this is the centre of Christian life. Augustine's Rule is short on regulations and ascetic advice, because Augustine focused on getting the right foundation for community life. He accepted that the details would be worked out in specific contexts, providing that the essential pattern was securely in place.

At its core is the description of the young Church found in Acts 4:32: 'The whole group of believers was of one mind and one heart. No one claimed any of his possessions as his own, but everything was held in common.' This was the foundation stone on which Augustine built. The essence of the Rule is to value community life over seeking for oneself. For this reason, all members are to share what they have, and are to receive only according to their need. All work is to be accomplished for the common good of all. All members are to exercise mutual care and vigilance over one another. The sick are to be a special focus of care in the community.

Augustine was less interested in external regulations than in inner transformation: seven times the Rule invites the reader to move from external action to interior conversion, seeking to overcome the tendency to favour one's own ego, and choosing a wise moderation in all things. Christians following the Rule come together in prayer at fixed times; they

enjoy a common life that is centred on God and striving for God. By their affectionate love for one another, by their ability to live together in harmony, the members of a religious community are to embody the teachings of Christ and make his love present to others.

Let all of you then live together, one in mind and heart, mutually giving honour to God in yourselves, whose temples you have become. Rule. Ch. 1.



Ordo Canicorum Regularium

Joyce Simpson

Prayer, after Augustine of Hippo

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you, the joy of the hearts that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: grant us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may truly serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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INVITATION

Oh do you have time
to linger
for just a little while
out of your busy

and very important day
for the goldfinches
that have gathered
in a field of thistles

for a musical battle,
to see who can sing
the highest note,
or the lowest,

or the most expressive of mirth,
or the most tender?
Their strong, blunt beaks
drink the air

as they strive
melodiously
not for your sake
and not for mine

and not for the sake of winning
but for sheer delight and gratitude –
believe us, they say,
it is a serious thing

just to be alive
on this fresh morning
in the broken world.

an excerpt from Mary Oliver, *Invitation*, *A Thousand Mornings*
(New York: Penguin Books, 2013).



RECYCLING: MYTH BUSTING

Recycling should be easy for everyone, but often isn't seen that way. Here are some tips and simple actions to make it easier.

1. Bottle caps and other foil items can be scrunched into a ball to avoid small pieces getting lost in the recycling process.
2. Lids and labels can stay on bottles and jars (plastic and glass). This helps stop the lids getting lost, ensuring they are recycled.
3. There is no need to remove plastic windows from envelopes. A bit of tape on cardboard boxes is also OK – simply flatten the box to save space in the bin.
4. TetraPak (layered plastic cartons) can be recycled as paper in most places.
5. Soft plastics can be recycled if taken to an appropriate collection point, usually a supermarket.
6. Scrunch test for when it isn't clear whether a material is recyclable. If you scrunch it and it springs back, it's probably a composite with plastic, and therefore not recyclable, but if it stays in a ball, it should be (i.e. paper /foil).
7. Emptying and rinsing containers helps avoid contamination in the recycling process.
8. Don't forget to squish plastic bottles to save space in the bin.

Ella Thompson, Sustainability Assistant, from the Devonshire (Chatsworth) Newsletter

BOLTON ABBEY VILLAGE SHOW

A great big thank you to all those who entered, helped and came along. It was the first show since 2019 and so we didn't expect it to be as busy as before, but looking forward to next year and expecting you all there. The entries were of a high standard and the winners of the categories and cups are as below:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Baking | Cathy Cromarty |
| Handicrafts | Annie Heyes |
| Preserves | Cathy Cromarty |
| Flowers | Gill Holme |
| Miscellaneous | Annie Heyes |
| Photography | Ethan McMahan |
| Most Points in Show | |
| Cathy Cromarty and Ethan McMahan | |

The Show Committee looks forward to you contributing to the categories and seeing you all next year. If you would like any other information or would like to join us, please ring Margaret, 01756 710587.
Margaret Cody

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BISHOP AUCKLAND – A Priory Guide’s Recommendation

One of the very few mildly irritating experiences of being a guide at Bolton Priory comes when vacation visitors are asked what their next destination will be. It’s okay when they say Fountains Abbey or York, but not when they say Edinburgh, and thus will miss what people in a BBC poll some years ago voted to be England’s most loved building. Of course, it’s Durham cathedral, and I am keen to point out the connection between the priory, the cathedral and St Cuthbert, and that they would be well advised to stop off on their way north (or south on return) to experience its majesty.

But there is another beautiful and intriguing place to visit, just a few miles from Durham city. The wind is howling and the rain lashing down, and then you walk into a historic building and find warmth, not simply from the central heating, but from Jack and Kirsten. They are likely to be the people who introduce you to a unique experience and leave you wondering how unique it is to feel tempted to repeat the word ‘unique’.

This is The Auckland Project, a hugely imaginative design to bring the place built by and for the Prince Bishops of Durham into the public domain and make it a splendid place to visit. The castle (or palace) at Bishop Auckland is a collection of all kinds of things, religious yes, but not wholly Christian because two of its major constituents are very much not Christian. It is also a museum, an art gallery and a place for speculation. While many visitor destinations seem to be very fond of the word ‘don’t’, this one is the opposite.

Do enjoy the history (and the role of that fierce warrior bishop, Antony Bek, and his establishment of the castle), do enjoy the architecture, do enjoy the furnishings. Do sit at an amazingly long dining table and wish to be part of the portentous discussions that must have taken place here and wish that the glass in front of you contains the vintage port that would have been part of the fuel for debate. If you’re a little guy, do feel free to lie on that sumptuous carpet. Do wish to take down a book or two in that library. Do speculate about what lies up those staircases. Do wonder what is along that passage. Do wonder what it was like to sleep in that bedroom. Is that genuine G-plan furniture in another more modern cosy nook? And yes, do wonder from the many windows at the views that just wish to be seen.

The other, more striking, aspect of the stately dining room is the collection of huge portraits by the Spanish artist, Zurbarán, of the biblical patriarch, Jacob, and his sons. This very Jewish series was created by a Christian artist and purchased by a Christian bishop in the eighteenth century. The collection can be seen as a forerunner of the palace’s Faith Centre, which highlights beliefs of all kinds in a beautiful way. The Faith Centre is also a great piece of modern architecture. There is also other super artwork to be seen as you walk round the

Castle: the chapel is magnificent. After the 1660 Restoration of the Monarchy, Bishop Cosin converted the medieval great hall into his private chapel.

There is more history to be seen, including Bronze Age exhibits and the Roman legacy. Just over a mile to the north of Bishop Auckland was Vinovium (Binchester Roman Fort), an important military post guarding the crossing of the River Wear, on Dere Street, the main Roman Road between York and Hadrian's Wall.

For the historian there is the story of the bishops of Durham's residence, Auckland Castle. Antony Bek (c.1245-1311) was the key figure: he transformed his manor house into a country residence for the Prince Bishops. During the Civil War, the Castle was captured by the Parliamentarians, and in 1648 the medieval Chapel was blown up. Later restoration combined the medieval with Gothic revival architecture.

Outside is a cascading garden tended by volunteer enthusiasts. The volunteer guides and staff inside are charming mines of information. Nearby is a Mining Art Gallery containing work by the miners of County Durham. Football fans will be intrigued by the fact that a team of miners from neighbouring West Auckland were the first winners of the football World Cup. They played in Italy in 1909 and retained the trophy two years later. Bishop Auckland won the former Football Association amateur cup an unprecedented ten times.

If you're lucky, you might bump into the present bishop, because the castle or palace still houses the offices of the bishops of Durham. It was their primary residence between 1832, when Bishop Van Mildert gave up Durham Castle in 1832 to become the home of England's third-oldest university, and 2012 when the Castle and its contents were sold to the Auckland Castle Trust.

You don't have to be religious to enjoy your visit to Bishop Auckland, but of course, it is enhanced if you are. And if you are a Priory Guide, it's great to be on the receiving end of welcome and information and knowledge, with the hope that you can provide it as skilfully back home on the banks of the Wharfe.

John Tunney



Roman remains at Vinovium



Auckland Castle on the left; Chapel of St Peter in the centre

WHAT OUR VISITORS SAY

- A sight to behold.
- Truly inspiring.
- I like the wood mouse.
- Very wet but lovely.
- Beautiful, and loved the gifts to buy and take home.
- Such peace in a fast crazy world.
- Very beautiful. Hopefully we'll have our wedding here. **Hint Hint** to boyfriend.
- Thank you to my mum, Liz Higgins, for remembering my lovely wife, Janet Wilson, among the lilies.
- Stunning, peaceful and makes you feel spiritually connected.
- Speechless. Made me wondering.
- So glad we came.
- Atmospheric old stone. Love the lilies.
- We rang the bell.
- Happy memories of meeting my grandparents here at this beautiful place.
- The peace permeates.
- Beautiful, calm and very emotional. I lit candles for loved ones I hope to see again.
- Will be coming back soon.
- Thank you for being open.
- Wonderful place of worship.
- Leaves a feeling of awe and wonder.
- It's the first time I have seen something like this. I really like it.
- Beautiful place to reflect and remember God (Allah). (A visitor from Afghanistan)
- Peaceful, not over-ornate and calming.
- Beautiful windows and thank you for the tour, Richard.
- Very informative and lovely guide and we found the mouse!
- Amazing chapel, very beautiful. Quiz was fun too.
- This is a beautiful church and I wish I could visit every day.
- Thank you to the volunteers who shared the history of Bolton Abbey.

In April and May we had visitors from Australia, Afghanistan, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Dominica, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Kashmir, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

In April we had 7,842 visitors and in May, 7,170.

Liz Higgins



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| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|
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| Parish Administrator | Margaret Cody | 01756 710238 |
| Churchwarden | Matthew Hey | 07702 555339 |
| Churchwarden | Joyce Simpson | 01943 872882 |
| PCC Secretary | Kate Templeton | 01943 463150 |
| PCC Treasurer | Michael Heatley | 01423 509629 |
| Gift Aid | Bill Marshall Smith | 01943 462719 |
| Interim Organist and Choir Master | Brian Mason | 01535 652585 |
| Concert Coordinator | Volunteer needed, please | |
| Deanery Synod | Susan Barker | 01756 711260 |
| Deanery Synod | Peter Lambert | 07985 136819 |
| Verger | Peter Lambert | 07985 136819 |
| Sacristan | Jennifer Hardaker | |
| Chalicians' Rota | Mike Vineall | 01756 753013 |
| Liquid Worship | Joan Mason | 01943 608049 |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Rosemarie Fisher | 07964 561959 |
| Environmental Officer | Elaine Adams-Lambert | 01756 794542 |
| Parish Inclusion | Joyce Simpson | 01943 872882 |
| Parish Safeguarding | Joyce Simpson | 01943 872882 |
| Sidesmen's Rota | Susan Whitaker | 01943 831165 |
| Wedding Flowers | Rosemarie Fisher | 07964 561959 |
| Welcome Team Lead | Kate Templeton | 01943 463150 |
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| Friends of Bolton Priory | Richard Watson | 07770 600513 |
| Coffee Rota | Liz Hornby | 01943 863136 |
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*13thC West Portal Bolton Priory
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