



**12<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**Baptism of Christ**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to Bolton Priory in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. We are a Christian community, seeking to live well with God, gathered around Jesus Christ in prayer, witness and worship.

## **Who we are**

Bolton Priory is an Anglican Church, in the Diocese of Leeds, where there has been continuous worship since 1154. When the Priory was dissolved in 1539, permission was granted for the parish to continue worshipping in the nave which is now the Priory Church. The Reformation is a daily backdrop to our lives and, fittingly, worship is centred around the Book of Common Prayer 1662 which, in the Spirit of Pentecost, is used and understood across the world-wide Anglican communion. Bolton Priory is committed to reflecting the glory and majesty of God in its worship and proclaiming the Gospel, particularly by seeking social justice and stewardship of God's creation.

## **Services Today**

<b>8.00 am</b>	Holy Communion
<b>10.30 am</b>	Sung Communion
<b>Reader</b>	Carol Dawson
<b>Hymns</b>	<b>34, 612, 93, 166</b>
<b>Introit</b>	Spirit of the living God - Iverson
<b>Anthem</b>	Litany to the Holy Spirit - Hurford

**Please Pray For:** Anne Clarke, Colin Richards, John Ward, Margaret Pratt

**Anniversary of Death:** Richard Bull (2021)

## THE COLLECT

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

*Zechariah 8: 1-8 KJV*

Again the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

## THE GOSPEL

*St. Mark 4.1-11KJV*

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

### **Rectors message**

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of Christ when we remember the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan. As the story goes, whilst Jesus was being baptised, the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove and God said "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". Not only is this the perfect representation of the Holy Trinity but it also prompts us to think of our own baptism at the same time. Baptism confers the Holy Spirit upon us all, calling us to live our lives in the light of the risen Christ. This coming year could see great political upheaval across the world which will challenge us all. In 2025, may we try and remain faithful to our baptismal vows and live our lives accordingly.

## **Streaming of Services**

Bolton Priory live stream various services for those who are unable to attend our worship. By attending services, you consent to being filmed for the purposes of live streaming only. This consent also extends to any minors under your care and control. If you wish to sit in a film free part of the Church, please ask a sidesman. Please be aware that these premises are also protected by CCTV.

## **Contactless Collection Plate**

We have contactless collection plates at the Priory. This means that you can pay by card or donate cash in the usual fashion. If you wish to pay by card, the amount is set at £5 but this can be adjusted manually if you would like to pay more or less. Please note, that if you want to gift aid your donation you can only do this by using a yellow envelope which can be provided by the sidesmen.

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January)**

2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Nicene Creed. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

## **Lent retreat, Boarbank Hall (17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March)**

There will be a Lent retreat at Boarbank Hall, Lancashire led by Sister Margaret Atkins OSA who was previously a senior lecturer in theology at Leeds Trinity University and a research fellow at Blackfriars, Oxford. It will be an Eco-retreat, run by the Canonesses of St Augustine, focussing on the ethics of the environment and asking how God might be speaking to us through creation? If you are interested in attending, please speak to the Rector

## **Bolton Priory becomes a Gold Eco Church**

Bolton Priory has been awarded a Gold Eco Church award by A Rocha UK. We were awarded the silver award in 2019 and have now achieved gold thanks, in large part, to the enormous effort of Elaine Lambert and those who assisted her. This is a considerable achievement and Bolton Priory is only the 66<sup>th</sup> Church to receive such an award in the country. We are a Church which seeks to be good stewards of God's creation and this award is in recognition of all that has been done over the past five years.

## **RSPB Bird Survey 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January**

For those who enjoy watching and feeding the birds in your garden, why not take part in the RSPB bird watch survey from January 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2025? Information packs are available on the table in the Tower, or you can visit the RSPB website and download a copy. This all helps us on our continual Eco journey.

## **January Eco Tip**

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator. Further ideas can be found at [arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/](https://arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/)

## **Water Feeders**

In our quest to achieve Gold Eco status we are encouraged to provide several water feeders for wildlife around the graveyard. This is as part of our Land Management Plan including caring for wildlife. If you would like to donate a birdbath or ground-level water feeder contact Elaine Lambert.

## **Recycled Used Candles**

We collect used candles for recycling, any residue wax will be used to make new candles. Please help us by bringing any spent candles from home and put them in the container in the vestry. The company we send the candles to no longer accept spent candles in glass containers.

## **Stamp Collection**

We are collecting stamps for the RNIB (Institute for the Blind). There is a box out on the table in the tower to put used stamps in. When collecting your stamps please don't include the envelope please cut round the stamps.

## **Diary for the Week Ahead**

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.00 am** Holy Communion

**4.00 pm** Choir Practice

### **Sunday 19th January**

**8.00 am** Holy Communion

**10.30 am** Sung Eucharist



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