



**5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**Feast of the Epiphany**

## **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**

**8.00 am** Holy Communion

**9.15am** Liquid Worship

**10.30 am** Sung Communion

**Reader** Andrew Wade

**Hymns** **84, 89, 83, 90** (omit v 3)

**Introit** How brightly shines the morning star

**Anthem** We three kings, Earth has many a noble city

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

**Anniversary of death:** Linda Croft (2022), Richard Bull (2021)

## Collect

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Old Testament

### Isaiah 60: 1-9 KJV

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory. Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

## **GOSPEL**

### **Matthew 2: 1-12 KJV**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

## **Rector's message**

This Sunday we are celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany. This is when the Wise Men arrived at the stable at Bethlehem bearing gifts for the Christ Child. Their journey to see Christ tells us two important things. First that the Gospel is for all mankind irrespective of creed or colour. Secondly, that we too have to make a conscious effort to seek out and journey to find Christ in our lives. May we follow the example of the Wise Men at the beginning of another New Year.

## **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.

## **U3A concert**

On Tuesday January 7 Brian Mason will lead the U3A Singing Group for a performance of **Seasonal Festive Music at Bolton Priory** between 10.00 and 12.00 noon. Everyone is most welcome to come and enjoy the concert.

## **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/)

## **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

## **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 24th to 26th 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.

## **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.

## **Lost Property**

In January, all lost property will be put out during coffee (after the 10.30am service) for collection. Thereafter, we will take what remains to the charity shop.

## **Diary for the week ahead**

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.00 am** Holy Communion

**4.00 pm** Choir Practice

### **Services Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January (Baptism of Christ)**

**8.00 am** Holy Communion

**10.30 am** Sung Eucharist



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