

Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT
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EASTER GARDEN

THANK YOU

As we gradually emerge from the third period of lockdown restrictions, the future looks promising and hopefully we will soon be able to meet up with family and friends. The Friends of Bolton Priory Executive Committee is therefore in the process of organising a Special General Meeting to take place in September when we will be able to share each other's company once again.

To be honest, with the absence of Spring Lectures, visits to places of interest and a sprinkling of social gatherings to report on, identifying interesting articles to include in the FoBP Newsletters over the past twelve months has sometimes posed a bit of a challenge to say the least. I am therefore extremely grateful to the Rector and members of the Friends of Bolton Priory for allowing me to include their stories, anecdotes, diary entries and photographs in recent issues. Thank you.

Jean Crawford

Every year in the Tower at Bolton Priory we have a miniature garden on display to signify Christ's rising from the dead. This year was no exception and our thanks go to Friends members, Joan and David Mason for having created such a beautiful model for visitors to enjoy.



Photography by Gill Holme

A JOYFUL EASTER TALE - Report by AMANDA WOOD

Returning home from a very pleasant walk in the Spring sunshine I came across a very distressed sheep with a lamb's head sticking out of her rear end! Was she just birthing naturally, I wondered, or was she in trouble? The lamb looked pretty lifeless and I wasn't sure what to do next. I do know that if the head gets stuck it can swell and the lamb has a limited chance of survival. I called the farmer but he was unavailable.

Not knowing what to do or how, I was greatly relieved to see the farmer's Land Rover appear at the gate. Phew!!

Firstly, he managed to catch the sheep: I hadn't thought of that one! I thought that she would just stand there and accept any help offered. How naïve! Step two, turn her over onto her side - which was not easy. The farmer then gently pulled the lamb out but it was still touch and go as its head was quite swollen and it appeared to be lifeless. I assisted with CPR and "airways clearing" which was quite a messy business. It was like being in an episode of All Creatures Great and Small.....The lamb took a breath. Eureka! The mother then took over and attended to her beautiful son.



After about ten minutes the "little man" seemed to have got over his rather traumatic arrival into the world and began feeding. Mother Nature is truly amazing.

I heard from the farmer this morning and mother and baby are doing well.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

In the January issue of the Newsletter it was explained that if the UK government Covid-19 restrictions continued to prevent an AGM in the normal style of open meeting, it was intended to hold a virtual AGM of the Friends of Bolton Priory on Sunday 9 May 2021. It was proposed that the Officers & Executive Committee members be authorised to conduct that virtual AGM and report to members on the business to be conducted by means of this issue of the Newsletter. It was also proposed that the Friends Constitution requirement for a quorum of 30 be waived for the purpose of the virtual AGM 2021.

Any member objecting to those proposals was asked to give notice to the Secretary by 28 February 2021. No member has objected to the proposals.

It is now clear that the UK government Covid-19 restriction will continue to prevent an open meeting for the AGM 2021.

On mature reflection it has been decided that to restrict business at the virtual Annual General Meeting 2021 to re-election of the Officers and those members of the Executive Committee for whom the three year term of office has expired.

The other business mentioned in the January issue of the Newsletter will be considered at a Special General Meeting on Sunday 5 September (see below); namely Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019, Approval of the Annual Accounts 2020 and reappointment of the Independent Examiner.

As a matter of interest, our Treasurer Adrian Hendley has commented on the Annual Accounts 2020 in a separate article within this issue of the Newsletter.

It is now felt it will be preferable for these business matters to be considered by the Special General Meeting when members of the Friends of Bolton Priory will be present.

Thus on or before Sunday 9 May, the Officers & Executive Committee members will conduct the business of a virtual AGM 2021 of the Friends of Bolton Priory by the following Agenda items :

1. Election of Officers

It is proposed that the existing Officers be re-elected on block until the Special General Meeting on 5 September (see later)

Officers

Chairman:	Jill Riley
Treasurer:	Adrian Hendley
Secretary:	Keith Simpson
Membership Secretary:	Rosemary Murgatroyd
Newsletter Editor :	Jean Crawford

2. Executive Committee

The following members have completed their three year term and are willing to stand for election again for a three year term :

Max Barker	Susan Barker	Barry Cody	Anna Hartley	Jenny Laycock
xxxxxxxxxx				

There is disappointment that government restrictions prevent an open meeting for the AGM 2021 on 9 May. Instead it is intended to hold a Special General Meeting of members on Sunday 5 September after the current restrictions have been lifted. The Special General Meeting will be held in Bolton Abbey Village Hall after the Eucharist service in the Priory Church and will be to the usual format with lunch afterwards.

At the SGM copies of the Annual Accounts 2020 will be tabled as will copies of the Minutes of the AGM 2019.

A ticket application for the SGM is enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS - 2020

The Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 have been prepared and are currently with the Independent Examiner.

Total Income was considerably lower in 2020 when compared with the previous year—around £4,000 compared with £6,400. We would have been surprised in any event to have matched the exceptional level of 2019 (which was boosted by some very generous donations and a number of life memberships), but then the pandemic also brought a halt to some of the usual social events which help to supplement our income.

Expenditure, in terms of the printing and distribution of the Newsletter and other items, was reasonably well contained at approximately £930 compared with £1,100 the previous year.

We made two contributions to the Priory Church in 2020. Firstly, we contributed £1,232 towards a new sound system and some stacking chairs. Secondly, we made a donation of £1,000 towards the costs incurred in the re-opening of the Church in the summer of 2020—hand sanitisers, signage etc.

Total funding and contributions by the Friends to the Priory Church are now in excess of £61,000.

The Friends' finances remain very strong with reserves of just over £41,000. These reserves will allow us to continue supporting the Priory Church in future years.

The Report and Accounts will be tabled at the Special General Meeting on 5th September 2021.

Adrian Hendley (Hon Treasurer)

April 2021

THE RESTORATION OF BOLTON PRIORY 1980-1985

PART 3

When work on the West Tower ceased at the Dissolution, the tower was left empty and forlorn for over 400 years. It was a damp, dreary place with walls covered in green moss. We cleaned the walls with water and could not believe the beauty of the stonework which was revealed, many of the stones having masons' marks on them. The mason would engrave the stone he laid to ensure he was correctly remunerated.

We had to rebuild the stonework at the top of the tower because it had deteriorated and a roof was put on for the first time. We were under pressure to use the same style of roof as in the church, however we installed a roof of a contemporary design.

A stonemason carved a crescent moon on the north wall and Maurice's face on the south wall. This was to record that Prior Moone started building the tower and Maurice Slaughter completed it. We later received permission from the Diocese to install an engraved flagstone on the floor of the Tower giving details of the completion.

One of our major problems was how to heat the church.

Conventional radiators were much too expensive to install and run and we were not allowed to have any heaters which put waste fumes into the church. After much research Neil Hartley, the architect, found a firm in the north east who supplied heaters which blew hot air. Two heaters were installed but were not adequate and had to be replaced by more powerful models. There was much discussion with the heating company before a satisfactory financial settlement was agreed. A tank to hold liquid gas was erected in the grave yard and I once heard some hikers wondering if it was a memorial to a sub-mariner!! Neil wanted to remove the electric heaters from the Priory walls but the Works Committee refused and this turned out to be a wise decision.

We continued to use the church for as long as possible but eventually services had to be held elsewhere. Burnsall Church proved to be even colder than the Priory; in cold weather we were all puffing out mist like steam engines when singing hymns. For many months we subsequently held services in the Village Hall which was much warmer and very satisfactory.

Frank Lambert - Extract from Parish Magazine first published in August 2010



Photography by Aurora Mercer

THE RECTOR'S LOCKDOWN DIARY

Part 3

Thursday 21st May 2020 (Ascension Day)

I have just come back from clapping for carers which happens every Thursday at 8pm. We have been religious in observing this event but tonight was different as it is the first time we have seen anyone else in front of the house. Until now, everyone has been in lockdown but our clapping by the porch caused some of the walkers to look in our direction. However, this was not the first occasion that we caught the attention of the public as today was Ascension Day.

I had recorded a service earlier in the week but resolved to go up the Tower in Church and sing an Ascension Day hymn. I managed to raise my large family of teenagers from their slumber and point them in the direction of the Church. Since the easing of the lockdown restrictions I am allowed into Church with a member of my household. I thought it was probably acceptable to invite all the children as we have now been living under the same roof for over eight weeks. We ascended the Tower and then sang "Hail the Day that sees Him Rise" whilst my daughter took a film of the event on her camera.



Photography by Aurora Mercer

I could see the Duke's gardener looking up at the Tower to see what was going on and a walker also saw us and then heard us singing. She came close enough to ask us what was happening and I was delighted to tell her it was Ascension Day. It felt wonderful to punctuate the day in this way.

Despite the lockdown; despite the restrictions, we were still able to proclaim that Christ had ascended to heaven. At the end I rang the bell twelve times (for each disciple) to conclude the proclamation.

Apart from that the day was mundane and did nothing to match the picnics we used to hold at school on Ascension Day. Perhaps that is a thought for next year?

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 5th September 2021

Our AGM will be held in Bolton Abbey Village Hall on Sunday 5 September immediately following the 10.30am Eucharist Service.

As usual the meeting will be followed by a cold buffet with a choice of desserts.

Tickets for lunch are excellent value at £20.00 per person.

Please complete the Events Form attached.

Our Grateful thanks to Rosemary Murgatroyd for arranging the distribution of the newsletters and to Margaret Cody for co-ordinating the ticket sales for FoBP events

FINAL THOUGHT: KEEP SMILING

Last March, along with all theatres, community centres and public amenities, Otley Courthouse Arts Centre faced closure during lockdown. In my role as Volunteer Co-Ordinator, I realised the importance of keeping in touch with my amazing team of 130 volunteers, some of whom experience anxiety and depression and many who live alone and were feeling particularly isolated. I therefore emailed them every few weeks with snippets of news and always signed off: Take Care; Stay Safe; Keep Smiling. In return, they then reminded me of this poem.

Smile by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile, then I realised its worth.
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!