

# Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT  
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Tel: 01756 710238 Website: <http://prioryfriends.org.uk>  
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## **THE SERVICE OF INSTITUTION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL THE REVEREND NICHOLAS MERCER BD LLM MTh (Oxon) as RECTOR OF BOLTON PRIORY**



On the evening of Monday 1 April Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley conducted the Service of Institution of Reverend Nicholas Mercer as Rector of the Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert, Bolton Abbey.

The service was well attended by the Priory congregation and Nicholas's family and friends. Towards the end of the service, Jill Riley the FoBP Chairman, was one of those who was formally introduced to welcome Nicholas as he commences his ministry at Bolton Priory. Our thanks to those who provided the delicious spread in the village hall after the service where we could mingle with friends old and new.

The Friends of Bolton Priory extend a warm welcome to Nicholas, Aurora and their children and assure them of our ongoing friendship and support.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **Sunday 12th May 2019**

**Our AGM will be held in Bolton Abbey Village Hall following the Morning Service on 12th May 2019.**

**As usual the meeting will be followed by lunch which will include a vegetarian option. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible so please put this date in your diary.**

**Tickets for lunch are excellent value at £15.00 each.**

**If you haven't yet bought your ticket but would like to attend the AGM and lunch, please contact Margaret Cody at the Church Office.**

**EARLY SUMMER VISIT  
TO HOVINGHAM HALL &  
KNARESBOROUGH  
PARISH CHURCH  
ON WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE**



Hovingham Hall is a country house that is built in the Palladian style. It has been the seat of the Worsley family for generations and was the childhood home of Catherine, Duchess of Kent.

The house is only open to the public during the month of June so we are extremely fortunate to have this opportunity to visit. We will be served tea, coffee and scones on arrival before having a guided tour and the opportunity to view the magnificent grounds.

We will then take a leisurely walk through the village to the Worsley Arms Hotel where we will have lunch of either York ham, poached salmon or a vegetarian option. ***(Please indicate your menu choice when completing the booking form).***

After lunch we will travel to the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Knaresborough. Initially constructed during Norman times, many of the features are remarkably well preserved. We will have a guided tour followed by a prayer before setting off home.

The total cost of the day including travel, coffee and scones on arrival, guided tours and lunch is £42.00.

Please book using the Events Booking Form.

**ITINERARY (approx.)**

- 9am Depart Bolton Abbey Car Park
- 10.30am Arrive at Hovingham Hall for morning coffee and scones
- 11am Guided tour
- 12.15pm Walk to the Worsley Arms Hotel
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 2pm Depart for Knaresborough Parish Church
- 3.30pm Arrive at Knaresborough and short walk to the Parish Church for a guided tour and prayer.
- 5pm Depart for Bolton Abbey
- 6pm (approx.) Arrive back at the car park

**CANDELABRA REFURBISHMENT**

The Friends of Bolton Priory have made a donation to the PCC to cover the cost of cleaning and refurbishment of the two candelabra by the altar. They have been re-burnished and beautifully restored. Over the years they had become tarnished and covered in melted wax which couldn't be cleaned for fear of causing further damage to the metal. Our donation was for the sum of £1,750.00.

The photograph doesn't do justice to their gleaming finish so if you get an opportunity when you are at the Priory, please have a closer look.



# **2019 SPRING LECTURE**

## **LAURA CAVENDISH, COUNTESS of BURLINGTON THE HISTORY OF FASHION AND THE DEVONSHIRE FAMILY**

Once again our Spring Lecture this year was a resounding success. 111 members and guests attended to hear Lady Burlington – Laura, speak of her interest and inspiration when discovering textiles and clothes that had belonged to generations of the Devonshire family and for years been packed away and stored at Chatsworth House. Fittingly, the lecture coincided with International Women's Day. There hadn't been a woman speaker since the late Duchess of Devonshire in 2003 and so we were particularly privileged that Laura had found the time to include the Friends of Bolton Priory lecture into her busy schedule. The evening opened with our chairman, Jill Riley extending a very warm welcome to Laura.

Laura promised us a "romp through 500 years of fashion" and what an amazing journey we had! She told us about finding and unpacking a collection historical treasures and that she soon recognised the importance of engaging the help of two of her acquaintances both of whom are experts in the field of fashion. These discoveries culminated some two years later in 2017, in an exhibition at Chatsworth entitled "House Style".

Laura's presentation included forty-five photographs and a short piece of film. She accompanied her talk with anecdotes and personal stories relating to the Devonshires, all delivered with sensitivity and humour. Laura explained that when she had told the late Dowager Duchess of her interest in seeking out the fashion items that had been stored away for years the Dowager seemingly encouraged her investigations by telling her to "Rummage to your heart's content".

The FoBP Executive Committee thank everyone who bought tickets and attended in order to ensure that the evening was such a success.



### **CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES?**

Please could we put in a plea to all Friends to notify us of any changes of address or circumstances. Thank you.

Contact: [jean\\_crawford@rocketmail.com](mailto:jean_crawford@rocketmail.com)

Or [kandas1rl@btinternet.com](mailto:kandas1rl@btinternet.com)

### **HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT THE FRIENDS' WEBSITE RECENTLY?**

If not, please spend a few minutes or so visiting [www.prioryfriends.org.uk](http://www.prioryfriends.org.uk)

This is your website so please send any photographs, memories or items of interest to me with a view to having them included on the site. Share your pictures and ideas with others.



## **GUIDING AT THE PRIORY** **“Ministry of Welcome”**

Between the months of April and October, volunteers who make up the Guiding Team welcome those visiting the Priory throughout the day. Some visitors are attracted to the historical significance of the building and want to look inside, some want to spend time in quiet reflection, whilst others may want someone to talk to and our guides are excellent listeners.

We have visitors from all over the world many of whom want to hear the story of the Priory itself, its origin, its restoration and revival during the 1970s and the spiritually active church that it is today.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this excerpt written by the late Edmund Butler and printed in the Bolton Priory monthly magazine in May 2003.

***“Almost twenty years ago I started as a ‘Guide’ at the Priory. It was my wife who persuaded me to have a go! I was rather apprehensive - “I don’t know anything about the Priory” - “I shall never be able to answer all the questions” - “I will look foolish in my ignorance” - I am not religious or devout enough”. All these thoughts and others passed through my mind.***

How wrong I was! What tremendous satisfaction I get from what is truly a most rewarding experience and a great service to the thousands of visitors who come to see our beautiful Priory Church and learn something about it, sensing its infectious atmosphere and charm.

We are a happy and devoted team involved in a “Ministry of Welcome”. We each see our function in a different way and do it “our way”. We do not need to be, and indeed are not, experts in any particular aspects of the building or its history.

We are ordinary people there to welcome visitors to this very special House of God and Prayer.

To be an effective member of the team, one does not need to be a member of the congregation at the Priory and additional help is always appreciated by those who currently administer the Guides Rota.

If you would like to learn more about the Guiding Team or would consider offering to help, please Gerry Yates:  
[gerryates83@gmail.com](mailto:gerryates83@gmail.com)

## **BLESSING OF THE LAMBS**

Our new Rector, Revd Nicholas Mercer, conducted his first Blessing of the Lambs service on Sunday 14 April 2019, in which we celebrated the role of our local farming community in nurturing God’s creation, and in particular our sheep and lambs. Nicholas himself is very familiar with sheep farming communities. His previous parish, the Falkland Islands, has 3,000 humans and 500,000 sheep!



*Nicholas introduces himself to one of his flock!*

## **MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **LATE SUMMER VISIT**

Plans are afoot to organise a late summer visit which will take place in early September. This will be to a property of historical interest as well as a guided tour of a place of worship. Details and booking form to be circulated very soon.

### **ADVENT SUNDAY SUPPER**

Sunday 1 December after the Advent Service  
Details to be announced nearer the date

### **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS VISIT**

For a magical Christmas experience, a trip is being planned to visit Harewood House to see the Christmas decorations. There will also be an opportunity to explore the covered market, gift shops and partake of refreshments.  
Date and details to be announced in the October Newsletter.