

# Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT  
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## **REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING**

The Friends of Bolton Priory AGM on 12 May was well attended and it was also an ideal opportunity for many to be introduced to our new rector, Revd Nicholas Mercer.

The meeting opened with the reading of the Friends Prayer after which we silently remembered those members who had departed during the past year: Dr Barbara Challoner, Meryl Armstrong, Sheila Clarkson, Maureen Roberts, Dr John Hawbrook and Barbara Hobbs.



Chairman, Jill Riley reviewed events that had taken place during the past twelve months and reports were presented by the Secretary and Treasurer. Agenda items were addressed swiftly and efficiently by Jill, business being completed in record time – under one hour, after which members were invited to socialise and catch up with friends over a fabulous lunch.

## **WELCOME**

We are delighted to welcome Rosemary Murgatroyd onto the FoBP Executive Committee. Rosemary has taken on the role of Membership Secretary with “consummate ease” and can be contacted on [frmurgy@hotmail.com](mailto:frmurgy@hotmail.com)

Our sincere thanks to Keith Simpson who has been our Membership Secretary for the past eight years – a task he’s dealt with willingly, efficiently and with plenty of good humour. Keith will continue to remain the Secretary to the Friends of Bolton Priory. Our thanks to them both.

## **AUTUMN LECTURE** **FROM BASRA TO PORT STANLEY -** **A JOURNEY OF FAITH**

by  
**Reverend Nicholas Mercer**

**FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER**  
**7pm for 7.30pm**  
at  
**BOLTON ABBEY VILLAGE HALL**



Reverend Nicholas Mercer has been the Rector of Bolton Priory since April this year. He was previously a military lawyer and Commander Legal for the HQ 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division during the Iraq War 2003. His journey of faith has taken him through armoured warfare, human rights litigation, theological college and the Falkland Islands. Nicholas will be speaking about this journey on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**Please arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start**  
Before the start of the lecture you will be invited to join us for a glass of wine or soft drink and canapes.  
Please be sure to purchase your ticket early.

**Tickets available at £10.00 per person**



**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS at  
HAREWOOD HOUSE**  
**Wednesday 11 December 2019**



When Edwin Lascelles started building Harewood House in 1759 he wanted nothing but the best for his new home. He employed the finest craftsmen of the time: York-born architect John Carr, fashionable interior designer Robert Adam, England's greatest furniture maker Thomas Chippendale and visionary landscape gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. As you walk round the House, you can see Renaissance masterpieces, exquisite family portraits by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Lawrence and Richmond.

The statues are singing, the paintings are gossiping and there's hustle and bustle both above and below stairs, with the anticipation of an important guest in the run up to a truly festive Christmas.

Created by acclaimed British artistic duo Davy and Kristin McGuire, from **Studio McGuire**, open the doors, look under the stairs, listen out for chatter and gossip and follow the music as one of Yorkshire's most exciting country house presents its interpretation of Christmas.

In addition to sampling some of the festivities, during your visit you will also be free to explore the state rooms and below stairs as well as the grounds and gardens.



**CHRISTMAS AT HAREWOOD**

**ITINERARY**

**9am** Depart from Bolton Priory car park

**10.30am** Arrive at Harewood House for morning coffee

You will then be free to explore the House, the gardens and festive decorations.

**1pm** Lunch – Soup, Sandwich & Festive Dessert

After lunch there will be more time to look around the house and grounds and visit the shop

**3.15pm** Depart from Harewood House

**4.30pm** Arrive at Bolton Priory car park

**Total cost of the day including travel, coffee on arrival and lunch is £42.00**



Run by a Christian charity called A Rocha UK, Eco Church seeks to work collaboratively with churches who share a common concern about the treatment of God's creation and want to see it flourish once again. Eco Church surveys focus on green ethical investment such as teaching and worship, the principles around environmentally friendly building projects and actions to reduce our carbon footprint.

The Friends of Bolton Priory is delighted that our church has embraced the five elements of the Eco Church philosophy and has subsequently been awarded a Bronze Certificate.

***Our Grateful thanks to Keith Simpson for arranging the distribution of the newsletters, Emma Padgett at Hartleys Auctioneers for maintaining the Friends' website and to Margaret Cody for co-ordinating the ticket sales for FoBP***

## **OUR VISIT TO HOVINGHAM HALL**

On arrival at Hovingham Hall, we were welcomed by staff at the main entrance. We discovered that the property had originally been built as a riding school and covered equestrian centre. Following coffee and scones, we were treated to a guided tour of the house. Designed and built by Thomas Worsley between 1750 and 1774, his passions for breeding horses and gardening is evident from the house and grounds. It was of course, the home of Katherine Worsley before she became the Duchess of Kent in 1961.

As cricket became popular in the 19th century, the area in front of the house was developed into a cricket pitch, and is still in use by the village team to this day.



The Friends then took a short stroll across the road to the Worsley Arms for an excellent lunch.

In the afternoon we travelled to Knaresborough Parish Church of St. John the Baptist. Initially constructed in Norman times, this is happily well preserved as a Grade 1 listed building. Our guide was from Gargrave and knew Bolton Priory and other local churches very well.

We arrived back at Bolton Abbey, well satisfied with a most enjoyable day out. A great big "Thank You" is due to Keith and Chris Nightingale for their excellent organisation and planning.

*Report by Joan Mason*

## **FRIENDS DONATION: NEW CHOIR HYMNBOOKS**

An attachment to battered books is shared by many people. The charm of broken backed, decrepit, dog-eared volumes can reflect that they have been well used and are well loved. However, with regard to our choir's hymn books, they desperately need replacing. Over the years they have been repaired far too many times.

The Friends of Bolton Priory has therefore agreed to donate to the PCC the sum of £450.00 to cover the cost of 20 copies of Common Praise Full Music.

## **EVERYBODY WELCOME**

### **ADVENT SUNDAY SUPPER**

**1 December following 4.30pm Service**

**As usual, the Advent Sunday Supper will be held in the Boyle Room after the 4.30pm Service of carols.**

**Hosted by the Friends of Bolton Priory, please come and enjoy a finger buffet and glass of wine or soft drink. Our Advent Sunday supper is always a lovely social event in the company of friends.**

**Tickets are priced at £8.00 each.**

**To book, please see attached Events Booking Sheet or contact a member of the Executive Committee.**

## **PRESIDENT—ANDREW HARTLEY**

As announced at the AGM, the Executive Committee is delighted to share the news that Andrew Hartley has kindly agreed to be the first President of the Friends of Bolton Priory.

Andrew and his wife Anna, have been regular attenders at Bolton Priory for over twenty-three years. Some ten years ago, they both became members of the FoBP Executive Committee with Anna taking on the role of Social Secretary. Together, they dreamt up fun outings for members with such trips continuing to be an important feature in the Friends' calendar today. Andrew was the chairman of the Executive Committee for seven years, standing down in May 2017. Anna is still an active member of the FoBP Executive Committee.



## **VISIT TO RIPON CATHEDRAL**

### **AND SUTTON PARK**

**on 12 SEPTEMBER**

Many of us have previously visited Ripon Cathedral to attend special services, wedding and funerals. However, on this visit we had the luxury of time to wander and fully appreciate the architecture and intricacies of this beautiful building.

At 11am we participated in a short service of prayer during which the Friends of Bolton Priory received a special mention.

Our trip to the cathedral coincided with the North Yorkshire Art Exhibition so we also had the privilege of enjoying the range of paintings from talented Yorkshire artists.



Following a superb lunch we motored to Sutton Park - a property which has recently increased in visitor popularity owing to the television programme of Gentleman Jack, part of which was filmed on the premises.

Sutton Park is owned by the father of Samantha Cameron and is only open to the public for a few weeks each year. Our tour guides were very informative about the building. They explained about the occupancy of the property through the years, as well as highlighting interesting facts about the furniture, paintings and various pieces on display, all of which added to the enjoyment of our visit.

Fortunately, the fine weather allowed us the opportunity to explore the extensive grounds and gardens at our leisure.

Our sincere thanks to Susan and Max Barker for having arranged such a super day out.

### **Website for the Friends**

[www.prioryfriends.org.uk](http://www.prioryfriends.org.uk) is open to all to read on the Internet. There you will find past Newsletters, stories, pictures of events and lots of information.

You can also use the link from the Priory website [www.boltonpriory.church](http://www.boltonpriory.church) to the Friends' website.

## **JILL RILEY'S PILGRIMAGE**

Our chairman Jill Riley has completed a two and a half day boot camp experience in Northumberland. Why?.....Because on 2 October, she will be setting off on a 111 mile pilgrimage—the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, the Way of St James in Northern Spain. This is an ancient pilgrimage with its roots in the 9th century. Jill's "walk" will start in Sarria and her journey will conclude in Santiago.

In order to qualify for the Compostela certificate pilgrims must walk at least 100 km along the Camino. Pilgrims in the Middle Ages believed that by showing your Compostela to St Peter at the Pearly Gates it would secure preferential treatment in heaven!

Jill, our thoughts and prayers are with you as you embark on this adventure and we're sure that you'll have a tale or two to tell us when you arrive home.



### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**8 Nov 2019 Autumn Lecture by Revd Nicholas Mercer**

**1 Dec 2019 Advent Sunday Supper**

**11 Dec 2019 Christmas visit to Harewood House**

**13 March 2020 Spring Lecture from Colin Alderson – Chef to the Royal Household**

**10 May 2020 Friends of Bolton Priory Annual General Meeting**

### **FUNDRAISING**

Throughout the year, the FoBP Executive Committee organise a variety of lectures, days out and social gatherings to suit all tastes and interests, the planning often taking place twelve months in advance. Within the ticket price there is a small donation for FoBP funds so that, in addition to membership subscriptions, we are able to purchase additional items and contribute to the maintenance of our beautiful church. Our thanks to everyone for supporting these events.