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**Website**

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**SUNDAY**

08.00	Holy Communion
09.15	Liquid Family Service First Sunday of the month
10.30	Sung Eucharist
16.30	Evensong as announced

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**WEDNESDAY**

10.00	Holy Communion
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**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS and FUNERALS**

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**From Revd Nicholas Mercer**

Many of you will have seen the results of the recent survey of Church of England clergy conducted by the Times Newspaper. The survey was sent to a random sample of 5,000 priests. It received 1,486 responses and results were analysed from the 1,185 in active ministry. I was among those surveyed.

One of the most striking results, however, was the finding that three quarters of the clergy surveyed no longer believe that England is a Christian country. Whilst this is perhaps not surprising, I thought that the clergy might take a different view.

We have just been through an extraordinary year as a nation. This time last year, Her Majesty the Queen died and was buried at St George's Chapel Windsor on the 19th September. On the day of her funeral thousands of people turned out to watch the funeral procession and twenty-nine million watched on television. Seven months later, King Charles III was crowned at Westminster Abbey and this time twenty million people watched the Coronation. In the last twelve months, the whole nation has gathered around the Christian Church and been united together, in heart and mind, with the Church of England at the centre of our Nation. If you were an alien looking in over the past twelve months, you could be excused for thinking that this is a Christian country, and that Christianity is still at the heart of our Nation.

I am always grateful to God and thankful that we have a strong worshipping community at Bolton Priory and remind myself that we have now sustained a community of faith for nearly a thousand years. We have, of course, had our ups and downs over the centuries, but Christianity has always endured, and I am confident that it will remain. As Christ himself reminded us: *"Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"*. (Matthew 16:18)

*Nicholas*

## LEST WE FORGET



*Photos courtesy of britishwargraves.co.uk*

August 1914 saw the start of what became known as The Great War. It was the first time that a British army was formed from the general population in addition to the regular armed forces. Patriotism was very strong in Britain and civilians were quick to take up the challenge to defend our shores. Men from every section of the population answered the call to arms. Some of them looked upon it as an adventure and those who had never been far from home saw it as an opportunity to travel.

As the training of civilians was undertaken, the Regiments formed battalions of men who had joined up with relatives and friends. These were known as Pals – Bradford, Leeds and many of the Yorkshire and Lancashire towns had their own Pals battalions. Others in the New Army linked to their home area were known as City battalions. The tragedy of these and the Pals was that, after severe fighting, whole areas lost many men. These battalions and the Territorials supported the diminishing regular Army forces.

Heavy losses meant that the fallen were buried in local cemeteries, or in fields and woods near where they fell. It became apparent that there was a need to register deaths and create formal cemeteries. Before the end of 1914 a department was formed to deal not only with the burial, but to record the name and date of each soldier's death. The Wounded and Missing Department was created in London, and branches were set up in France, and in Egypt to serve the Middle East and Gallipoli campaigns. A dedicated staff dealt with the many letters of enquiry from worried relations and, importantly, members of staff would visit the hospitals and



elicit valuable information from the patients who had served alongside the missing men. Every letter was acknowledged and what information the department had was passed on.



The Imperial War Graves Commission, led by Fabian Ware, was formed in 1917. The advisory committee appointed Edward Lutyens and Herbert Baker, the eminent architects of their day, and Arthur Hill from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew to advise on the future development of military cemeteries.

Fabian Ware was convinced that all the fallen should be treated equally, and that individual memorials could be created also in the village, town, or city of the home country. The headstones should be of English limestone and should be uniform in design, two feet six inches tall by one foot three inches wide, and three inches deep. Each headstone should bear the name, rank, regiment, and date of death of the deceased. The bereaved could choose to have on the stone an incised symbol such as a Cross, or a Star of David, and a short text, not exceeding sixty-six characters. After the war these graves could be visited and became a focal point of remembrance and comfort to many families. The cemeteries are places of peace and are planted with flowers and plants native to the United Kingdom.

But what of the many families whose sons were posted as Missing? Their hope to be reunited after the Armistice was disappointed. There were many thousands whose sons and husbands had no known grave. In the rebuilding of Ypres, a magnificent Gate was constructed in the ramparts through which the troops had marched to battle. There are fifty thousand names engraved on its walls. Every evening at eight o' clock buglers play the Last Post. This custom began as soon as the Menin Gate was built and has continued ever since, except during the years of German occupation in World War II. At Thiepval a large multi-arched memorial stands on a hill. Etched on the walls, stretching high into the arches, are the names of seventy-two thousand men – The Missing of the Somme. There are many other memorials on the battlefields – every one of the Missing is commemorated on one of them.

*Anne Hardy*

## FIVE MONARCHS: INTRODUCTION

Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III each of us can add one to the number of monarchs under whom we have lived. This is an inconsequential fact but can be interesting to those who notice. There has been no change in the number for more than seventy years, but during Elizabeth's reign there have been vast changes. It is to her credit that she adapted so well and used her influence so unobtrusively but effectively, both by her nature and through her long experience and training.

There are signs that her successor will bring to the job a willing acceptance of marked change, particularly in so speedily reducing the number of 'working royals' without necessarily reducing work for the advancement of the causes they support. It is a sobering thought that, in the nature of things, succeeding occupants of the throne will have much less time for action than heretofore. This situation is like that which came about upon the death of Queen Victoria who reigned for 63 years and 216 days, whilst the next four monarchs who succeeded her had altogether only 51 years. If the present King is included, I find I have lived during the reigns of 5 monarchs.

Partly historical interest and partly a sense of 'closeness', almost an intimacy, encourages me to write my own thoughts and experiences of the five monarchs. I was born but ten years after the close of the First World War, so my perspective on royalty embraces the knowledge and experience of those close to me, including that of two uncles who served in the Royal Horse Artillery. These men endured the extreme fighting of the battle and retreat from Mons in 1914, and still serving in 1917, they endured the horrors of the Third Battle of Ypres, often known as Passchendaele, when in 100 days the Allies advanced a mere five miles, and lost 250,000 men, killed, or missing in action. After an attack sometimes my uncles were the only survivors of the guns' complement of six men. My mother recalled that after a spell of home leave, they returned to active service, expecting never to see their loved ones again. One of those two uncles was so badly wounded that soon after the end of the war, a fall at work killed him through the impact on his wounds.

As a youth I was sharply aware of the hardships inflicted on civilians during World War II. My family lived in Leeds and every weekend harboured friends from Hull, which was being badly bombed. They arrived literally trembling with fear, in need of some respite from the terror. Towards the end of the war, as the Allies advanced across northern



Europe, I recall reading a newspaper article about Operation Market Garden, which advised that if you should meet a man who had been at Arnhem, you should ask to shake him by the hand. Coincidentally, a man came to the door for his mother who was helping in our house. He was in uniform and confirmed upon my asking that he had been at Arnhem. I asked if I might shake his hand, and, typical of the type, he said, 'Whatever for?' Experiences such as these gave me an unshakeable respect for soldiering and for the King as head of the Forces to whom allegiance was sworn.

Following a slight delay for me to take examinations, I was called up into the Army in 1947. (The National Service Act was passed in 1948.) When qualified, my task was to train senior warrant officers from Commonwealth countries who wished to be assimilated into the British Army, but at a substantially reduced rank. I was impressed by their acceptance; these men were content to accept a lower rank, in order to continue their service as soldiers. I was also moved by the humility of these war-decorated, brave soldiers who were willing to accept orders from me, their junior in experience, but senior in rank.

Is it possible to feel intimacy, or at any rate closeness, to someone not actually seen? Perhaps I may demonstrate that this may be achieved by analysing the effect on me of each monarch as each monarch's life unfolded.

To be continued in our next issue.

*James Turnbull*

### **BOLTON PRIORY COMMEMORATIVE MUGS 1154-1954**

Following our enquiry as to the possible survival of other 70-year-old earthenware mugs given to every child in the parish in 1954, we have had two sightings. Roger Nelson, a pupil at Boyle and Petyt school in 1954, sent a photograph of his mug, and knows three fellow pupils who still live and farm in the parish, each of whom may still possess their octocentenary mug. He adds the detail that both his late brother and his present neighbour were bearers of the Archbishop of York's train when he visited the Priory for the Octocentenary celebrations.

A second photograph was sent by Tracey Whitaker, née Naylor. This mug had been given to her mother, Ellen Patricia Naylor, née Eggleston.

Thank you for these fascinating details.

*Editor*



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## KATE RHODES TALKS ABOUT GROWING UP IN WARTIME BRADFORD



I travelled into Bradford every day from Eccleshill, which at that time was on the edge of green fields. As I crossed Forster Square, between two bus journeys, I would look up at the Cathedral. St. George's flag was always flying, and that steadied your spirits. *The Telegraph and Argus* printed a weekly text, and often I would think of the text as I looked up at the flag. Lots of people did

the same. One text I recall was from the 'Book of Joshua': 'Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.' The Provost wanted to give people words of encouragement.

At that time Bradford Cathedral had an extremely good, one hundred strong youth group, run by three curates who supported the ministry of the Provost. The programme was a very thorough grounding in Scripture and Christian doctrine. We were taught how to discuss matters amicably and how to lead a discussion group. There was no table tennis, and no snooker! We had a weekly Communion service, followed by a simple breakfast in the Cathedral Hall before we went on to school.

In those days Bradford Cathedral was close to back-to-back houses in a district of great social need. If you had half an hour's spare time you could call in to Clergy House and ask if there was anything you could do, and they might say: 'Would you take these eggs to Mrs So and So?', and then you visited a family, or perhaps a single person, living in the basement of one of these impoverished dwellings. The conditions were dreadful, but you never felt frightened, because the people were friendly. A significant number of people from that youth group went on to work for the Church, and a significant number of the lads were ordained later.

Bradford valued education highly and had good grammar schools. My school was Bolling Grammar School, next to Bolling Hall. The standard of teaching was extremely high, and the building itself was attractive, with classrooms opening on to the four sides of a quadrangle with a

charming garden in the centre. Wartime austerity measures meant that the temperature was kept at the mid-fifties Fahrenheit. Energy was also saved through the invention of **double** British summertime, so the clocks were moved forward not by one hour, but by two. We often travelled to school in the dark, but arrived at a building lit up and welcoming, for by that hour danger from the bombers had passed. Schooldays included frequent air-raid practice. We went quickly down to the cellar, and struggled into our gasmasks as quickly as we could. The threat of gas-poisoning was very real.

The standard vegetable for school lunch was 'grey peas'. Since then, I have never come across them. Monday to Thursday dessert was semolina, and on Fridays we were given an exceedingly bitter tart, with a filling of concentrated orange juice, sent (I think) by the Americans, to ensure that we youngsters had our vitamin C.

Musically the school was good with a choir and a madrigal group. We put on a production of *The Gondoliers*. We were allowed cheap tickets for Eastbrook Hall where the Hallé Orchestra under John Barbarolli was housed during the War. People took blankets and hot-water bottles and went to listen, not minding that there were buckets on the windowsills to collect the raindrops. Quality Radio productions on The Third Programme were another source of education, and I recall Neville Coghill reading his modernisation of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and even a performance of Milton's *Samson Agonistes*!

Our English teacher plunged us straight into Tennyson's *Morte d'Arthur*; we read whole Shakespeare plays, the Brontës and Dickens, and had an extremely thorough grounding in grammar. The senior English teacher was an Oxford graduate from Somerville College, and she prepared me for the Higher School Certificate and beyond that for the State Scholarship examination. I took the entrance exam for Somerville, but most places were reserved for returning service women, and so after leaving school in 1948, I read English at Bedford College, London University. Before I went to College, I was advised to spend a day in each of two different primary schools, to see what went on. It was a steer towards teaching at secondary level as a profession. Bradford City awarded me a generous book grant, and so I was well provided to make the most of my chance at Higher Education. Bradford was a good place for a teenage girl to realise her dreams, and I'm forever grateful.

*Kate Rhodes (RIP 25.9.2023), from a conversation with Joyce Simpson.*



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## BARBARA PICKERSGILL: IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

This year the Priory lost a deeply faithful, long-standing member of the worshipping congregation. Barbara Pickersgill died on May 20th after a period of ill health, and her funeral took place at the Priory. Barbara came originally from Northampton where she worked for the local paper. She met Joe, from Leeds, when he was serving with the RAF at a local aerodrome. They were married in 1965 and had two children, Joanne and Andrew. Barbara worked at the Yorkshire Bank, but life changed in 1980 when she and Joe moved to Bolton Abbey to serve as postmaster and postmistress. Their post office was in the building that now houses the bookshop.

Both Joe and Barbara became fully involved in the life of the community. Barbara helped run the Wednesday Nighters' club and dances; she acted in plays and pantomimes and played both badminton and tennis. Joe served the Priory Church as Verger for 30 years, and Barbara was always there at his side, together with their much-loved dog. If the dog lay outside the West door, locals knew Barbara and Joe were inside. They opened the Priory each day and closed it each night, year after year.

Barbara and Joe enjoyed retirement at the Riddings with a fantastic view down the dale towards the village. After a happy retirement of more than 20 years, Joe died in January 2022.

At Barbara's well attended funeral the Rector said: 'Barbara did so many things for the Priory: guiding, flower-arranging, counting, readings during services, arranging the church fête, and so much more besides.' Barbara was a long-standing Trustee of the Priory Restoration Appeal Trust, which still exists to raise and provide funds for the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the Priory Church.

At this season of Remembrance, we recall that today's Priory Church owes everything to the missionary vision and energy of Canon Slaughter and that group of people whom he inspired to share in the great work of renewal. Barbara and Joe are amongst those to whom we owe a great debt.

As Herbert wrote, faithful love is the Alchemist's Elixir:

This is the famous stone  
That turneth all to gold;  
For that which God doth touch and own  
Cannot for less be told.

May Barbara and Joe rest in peace.

*Editor with contributions from Judith Schofield and Bill Marshall-Smith*

## BOLTON PRIORY CELEBRATES WILLIAM BYRD c. 1540-1623



William\_Byrd (1543-1623)

Bolton Priory concertgoers have been offered fine opportunities to listen this year to the music of William Byrd. Byrd's legacy is of outstanding musical splendour. More than 600 pieces of Byrd's church music survive, compositions for both Roman Catholic and Protestant liturgies, together with secular pieces, including part-songs, madrigals, instrumental ensembles, and keyboard pieces. Byrd died in 1623, so this year marks his 400th anniversary.

The tensions of the Reformation and the split from Rome are deeply inscribed in the life and music of this remarkable English composer. It is thought that Byrd's parents may have become at least nominally Protestant, but throughout his long life, and increasingly as he grew older, Byrd identified with the minority Recusants who remained committed to the old faith.

During the Passion Sunday Concert at Bolton Priory **Cantores Salicium** performed Byrd's five-part setting of the opening verses of a Penitential Psalm, no. 50 in the Vulgate Bible, *Miserere Mei*, and two movements from his Mass in four parts. To listen to Byrd's *Miserere Mei* is to be brought close to the pain endured by those men and women of the Reformation who experienced alienation and persecution, but the music transcends pain, and transfigures anguish into heart-piercing harmony.

Some weeks later, by contrast, the programme presented by **Cantores Salicium** and **Camerata Salicium** for our Coronation celebrations, included *Laudibus in Sanctis* (*Praise the Lord among His Holy Ones*, after Psalm 150). This joyous motet, with its lilting dance rhythms, was the opening piece of Byrd's second collection of sacred vocal music, *Cantiones Sacrae*, published in 1591.

In June, **The York Chapter House** concert, 'Byrdland', opened with two contrasted pieces by Byrd. The first was Byrd's a cappella setting of a Eucharistic chant dating from the 13th century, *Ave Verum Corpus*. This offered four minutes of musical heaven, a wonderful blend of emotional fervour and technical prowess. Byrd draws out the opening Ave with long sustained notes, drawing us at a slow and lingering pace into contemplation of the presence of Christ. The middle section focuses on Christ's suffering on the Cross and our redemption, whilst the final section invites a personal response: the long, deep notes of *O dulcis, o pie, o Jesu, fili Mariae, miserere mei* (*O sweet, O gentle, O Jesu, son of Mary, have mercy on me*), directly

express love for the person of Jesus Christ. Whilst almost all this motet is in the minor key, it ends on a major chord: a small hint of joy, a hint that after the seriousness of Crucifixion, comes the joy of Resurrection.

**The York Chapter House Choir** then performed, in sharp juxtaposition, Byrd's 6-part setting of the first four verses of Psalm 81 as translated in the 16th century Geneva Bible:

'Sing ioyfully vnto God our strength: sing loude vnto the God of Iaakob. Take the song and bring forth the timbrel, the pleasant harpe with the viole. Blowe the trumpet in the newe moone, euen in the time appointed, at our feast day. For this is a statute for Israel, and a Law of the God of Iaakob.'

Setting a psalm to music, using the English words of the Geneva Bible accorded with orthodox practice in the Church of England during Elizabeth's reign, though more extreme Puritans probably viewed all music with suspicious distaste. The musical elaboration of Byrd's setting might well have aroused the Puritans' fear that beauty distracts the listener from single-minded focus on the Word of God.

There can be no doubt of Byrd's lifelong commitment to his Roman Catholic faith, but he was also committed to the service of Queen Elizabeth I, a Protestant monarch, with a penchant for elaborate church music, who did not enquire too closely into the opinions of those who provided it for her. In 1573 Byrd took up the post of Gentleman of the Chapel Royal Choir. Mentored by Thomas Tallis, Byrd wrote pieces in homage to Elizabeth.

A particular highlight of this year's music at Bolton Priory was the first visit of the **Tallis Consort**, a group formed in 2017, that includes professional singers, recent music graduates, and young members of cathedral choirs. Chris Why outlined the paradoxes of Byrd's career marked by both religious persecution and royal favour, as he directed superb performances of Byrd's settings of the Mass and of *The Lamentations of Jeremiah*. These poetic laments for the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586BC had become a code, enacting the hope that the Catholic faith would be restored in England.

On Remembrance Sunday, November 12, a concert by **Cantores Salicium** will include Byrd's setting of *Christe qui lux est* which will complete our commemoration of Byrd's 400th anniversary. We are fortunate that in our day the music with Latin texts that Byrd wrote for his beleaguered Catholic friends can be openly performed, and that our own **Bolton Priory Choir** includes in its repertoire a number of his compositions: the Canon, *Non Nobis Domine*; the motet, *Ave Verum Corpus*; and the Offertory anthem for the Feast of Corpus Christi, *Sacerdotes Domini*. After this year's exposure to such abundance of Byrd's music, I for one shall listen to our own Choir's interpretations more attentively.

*Joyce Simpson*





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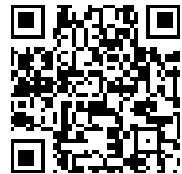


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	19.30	The Wednesday Nighters
02 Thursday		<b>All Souls' Day</b>
	17.00	All Souls' Service
04 Saturday	12.30	Marriage Service for Max Rostron and Charlotte Earl
<b>05 SUNDAY</b>	09.15	Liquid Family Service
	12.00	Interment of Ashes Margo and Malcolm Firth
<b>12 SUNDAY</b>		<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>
	16.00	Cantores Salicium Concert
<b>19 SUNDAY</b>		<b>TRINITY 24</b>
<b>26 SUNDAY</b>		<b>CHRIST THE KING</b>
		<b>SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT</b>
30 Thursday		<b>St Andrew</b>

### DECEMBER

02 Saturday		Charity Bazaar
<b>03 SUNDAY</b>		<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b>
	09.15	Liquid Family Service
	16.30	Advent Carol Service
		The Friends' Advent Supper
06 Wednesday	10.45	The Pheonix Singers in Church
	19.30	The Wednesday Nighters' Christmas Dinner
<b>10 SUNDAY</b>		<b>ADVENT 2</b>
	13.00	Alexandra Lowe Concert
12 Tuesday	16.30	The Duchess of Devonshire's Estate Christmas Party for Children, starting in Church.
14 Thursday	18.00	Estate Carol Service
<b>17 SUNDAY</b>		<b>ADVENT 3</b>
	16.30	Nine Lessons and Carols
19 Tuesday	18.00	Boyle & Petyt Carol Service
<b>24 SUNDAY</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
	16.00	Christingle
	23.00	Midnight Mass

**25 Monday**

08.00

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Holy Communion

10.00

Festal Eucharist

26 Tuesday

St Stephen

27 Wednesday

St John

28 Thursday

The Holy Innocents

**31 SUNDAY**

**CHRISTMAS 1**

**JANUARY**

01 Monday

**The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

06 Saturday

**The Epiphany**

**07 SUNDAY**

**The Baptism of Christ**

09.15

Liquid Family Service

**14 SUNDAY**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

**HOLY BAPTISM**

06 August

Athena Estelle Taylor

27 August

Amelia Margot Sainsbury

**MARRIAGE SERVICE**

05 August

Darren Howson and Robyn Stevens

Joseph Launders and Rebecca Robinson

28 August

Harry Brett and Hannah Donald

01 September

Toby Mountain and Lydia Rushton

**INTERMENT OF ASHES**

25 August

James Whitaker

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CONCERT**

Do join us on Sunday November 12 at 4.00pm for a Concert by Cantores Salicium: 'In a Strange Land': Music and Words of Loss and Remembrance.

**ALL SOULS' EVENING PRAYER**

This annual All Souls' service with act of commemoration for the faithful departed will be held on Thursday 02 November at 17.00. As usual, we have formally invited the families of those whose funerals we have held in the past twelve months and whose names will be read out at the service. We hope that many of you will take this opportunity to give thanks for the lives of loved ones now departed.

**BOLTON ABBEY ESTATE CAROL SERVICE**

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## FRIENDS OF BOLTON PRIORY - Letter from the President

In May, earlier this year at the AGM of the Friends of Bolton Priory, I stepped down as Chairman after nearly 7 years, as did our Secretary Keith Simpson, after 14 years. We both had very nice things said about us at the meeting, were presented with gifts, and were promptly proposed and seconded as President and Vice President. Jenny Laycock was also elected as a Vice President. Then Keith's successor, Susan Barker, was elected as the new Secretary. All those in favour etc etc.... Job done; it took all of 10 minutes!!

Sadly, we were not able to come up with a new Chairman to take my place at the same time. However, just four months on, I am now delighted to announce that we do have a new Chairman ready to take over. A relatively new Friend and newish member of our congregation, Richard Watson is well and truly integrated into our Parish community. Richard and his partner, Katherine Hague, regularly attend both our services and our Friends and Priory events. Richard acts as a stand-in vergger when our regular vergger, Peter Lambert, is unavailable. Katherine has recently taken over as our new Membership Secretary and is doing a magnificent job.

Richard has many interests and business commitments, so was concerned that he would not have time to take on this role. Fortunately, I managed to assure him that with our hard-working and efficient Executive committee behind him, he would not find it a too onerous task and the rewards far outweigh any misgivings. I now have much pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to Richard and wish him well as he takes on the Chairmanship of the Friends of Bolton Priory. The formal part of his appointment will take place at the Friends AGM on Sunday May 12th, 2024.

Seven years ago, having been on the Friends' committee for nearly 15 years, I was asked to take over as Chairman. The much admired and much missed Chairman all those years ago was Andrew Hartley. I was reluctant to take on this role as I doubted my capability to step into such highly respected shoes. Andrew had been such a hard-working, popular, and pro-active Chairman, whilst at the same time running his highly successful family business, Hartley's Auctioneers of Ilkley. However, I was persuaded to accept the invitation. Quite one of the best decisions I have ever made. I have loved every minute. It has been a great honour and I have learned so much from my far more experienced and knowledgeable committee colleagues.

Their friendship and support have been invaluable and much appreciated as has been the continuing support of so many of our members. We are very lucky to have so many dedicated and loyal members who do and give so much to enable us to support the Priory in so many ways. I am certain that under the leadership of Richard Watson and the Executive committee we will continue to support the Priory Church as we have done successfully for many years.

My grateful thanks and best wishes to you all.

*Jill Riley* - President of the Friends of Bolton Priory



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## FLOWERS FOR THE PRIORY



Throughout most of the year the Church is filled with beautiful arrangements which are much admired by the Priory's many visitors. We generally work in teams of three, each team scheduled four times a year. In addition we all come together to dress the Church for three Christian festivals: Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Behind the scenes there is the planning, gathering, ordering and conditioning of all the flowers and greenery. Renowned professional demonstrator, Vanessa Wellock of Wildflowers, is holding a tutorial for the Flower Teams on Friday 12th January at 9.30. We are keen to

welcome new volunteers so if you would like to join one of our teams and come to Vanessa's demonstration or just want to find out more please call Liz Clayton 07880 700399.

## THE RECTOR PREACHES IN COPENHAGEN

After the very successful visit of the Reverend Peter Otken, Danish Lutheran Church, last year to Bolton Priory, the Rector was invited this year to Denmark to preach at the Smoren Kirke which is on the outskirts of Copenhagen. The Rector was warmly welcomed by the congregation and ministers who had chosen English hymns for the occasion. Indeed, when he arrived at Church the organist was rehearsing 'For All the Saints' to the tune of *Sine Nomine* by Ralph Vaughan Williams!

The Rector preached on the Gospel reading for the day (Luke 17: 11-19), Jesus



Cleanses the Ten Lepers. Remarkably, this was the same as the reading in the Book of Common Prayer lectionary. Reflecting on the reading, the Rector pointed out that Jesus is to be found, not with the establishment, but amongst those excluded from the centre of social, political or religious life. Jesus breaks down the barriers we erect between ourselves and others and makes communities “clean” at the same time. Furthermore, Jesus was prepared to take on the mantle of uncleanness in doing so, and we are called to do likewise in

our support for the poor, marginalised and despised in our own societies.

As well as preaching, the Rector also participated in the administration of the Eucharist using the words from the Book of Common Prayer during the distribution. One thing stood out for him in the church and that was the ship hanging from the roof of the nave, reminding us that we are all travelling to our heavenly home. This was a wonderful exchange between Bolton Priory and Smoren Church, bringing us together as a Christian community, whilst providing scope to compare and contrast the Scandinavian and English Reformations.

## BISHOP AUCKLAND REPORT

The Friends of Bolton Priory made their late summer trip on the 6th September, and the destination was the Auckland Project at Bishop Auckland, Co Durham. The coach and its full complement of passengers set off from Bolton Abbey at the earlier time of 8.45am, the departure time having been brought forward due to rumours of delays caused by roadworks on the A59. Fortunately, there were none, and so our driver, John, sailed through, and we arrived in a lovely sunny Bishop Auckland slightly ahead of schedule.

Why to Bishop Auckland you may ask? Well, the background to the Auckland Project is interesting. We must go back as far as 1756 when the then Bishop of Durham, Richard Trevor, acquired a collection of paintings of Jacob and his twelve sons, by the Spanish artist, Francisco de Zurbarán, considered one of the most outstanding treasures of European art. From then we must leap forward to 1997, when the Church Commissioners decided they needed money, and so made the decision to sell the Zurbarán paintings. This caused a public outcry and the then Bishop, Michael Turnbull, fought to save them from being sold and we are fortunate that he succeeded. However, in 2010 the Church Commissioners once again tried to sell the paintings, and had them listed in Sotheby's Auction Catalogue.

Following this story was a leading British investment banker, Jonathan Ruffer, who had grown up in Stokesley, North Yorkshire. Ruffer offered to buy the paintings so that they could remain at Auckland Castle. Difficult negotiations ensued which resulted in Mr Ruffer not only buying the pictures, for a reputed thirteen million pounds, but also the Castle and the attached Deer Park too. So, the Auckland Project was born!

It is estimated that Jonathan Ruffer has donated around one hundred and twenty million pounds to the Auckland Project to restore not only the Castle, the grounds, and the Deer Park, but to build a Faith Museum, which has just opened. He has created a major visitor attraction to breathe new life into the town of Bishop Auckland. He has also converted a former Bank in the town square into what is now The Spanish Gallery. This contains the largest collection of 16th and 17th century Spanish art outside London and continues Ruffer's exploration of Golden Age Spanish Art.

Our coach drop off point was next to the Auckland Tower, from which you can get far-reaching views of the area. There we were met by Kirsten, from the Auckland Project, and she escorted us from the drop off point to the Castle. As we made our way through the imposing entrance gates next to the Castle Lodge, we could see work in progress on the Faith Museum on one side and the Walled Garden on the other.

Once at the Castle we were shown to the Old Library where our Group was able to sit and enjoy coffee, tea and biscuits. Each of us was also given a

lanyard with our passes for the day attached, and this enabled us to have free access to the Castle, the Gardens, and the Spanish Gallery.

At 12 noon our Group made its way to St Peter's Chapel in the Castle where we were met and greeted by the Bishop of Durham's Chaplain, Revd Dr Chris Knights. He had kindly offered to conduct a private Communion Service especially for our Friends group. The Castle Chapel remains the private chapel of the Bishop of Durham. The position of Bishop of Durham is historically an important one, and you may remember that he was at the side of King Charles III, together with the Bishop of Bath and Wells, during the entire Coronation Service in May earlier this year at Westminster Abbey. Revd Dr Chris Knights started the service by giving us a little talk about the history of the current Chapel, which had originally been a 12th century banqueting hall, but had subsequently been converted to a chapel and was consecrated on St Peter's feast day in 1665. It is one of the largest private chapels in Europe. This service lasted about half an hour and was a wonderful start to the visit.

After this our Group could decide for themselves what to do next. Was it lunch first, either, in the Bishop's Kitchen Café, where you could also enjoy the sunshine in a lovely walled courtyard? Or, was it the Tapas Bar next to the Spanish Gallery, so keeping with the Spanish theme?

Most started their visit in the Castle, and the Guides who were on hand in the various rooms were all very friendly and helpful and were ready to answer any questions that visitors might have. There was the magnificent Throne Room with its Georgian Gothic splendour, the Long Dining Room where the Zurbarán paintings have always hung. This room and the dining table were set out as though a dinner party had just taken place, and we as visitors had just missed the diners and the party! There was also what had been the Bishop's Study, and in the room beyond there was reference to how a former Bishop of Durham, Brooke Westcott, had gathered pit-owners and union representatives together to end the miners' strike of 1892.

The other attraction was the Spanish Gallery which is set over four floors, and houses amazing Spanish artworks including those by El Greco, Murillo and Velazquez. Fortunately for us all, there was a very large lift which takes you from floor to floor. The top floor has something a little different and includes a recreation of El Greco's Tabernacle, covered in gold, as well as copies of tiles that you would see perhaps in the Alhambra in Granada.

We had a very smooth uneventful journey back to Bolton Abbey where we arrived just after six o'clock. An enjoyable, interesting, and enlightening day was had by all, with many saying they would be returning to see the completed Faith Museum and the Auckland Project as it progresses.

*Susan & Max Barker*





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## THE SINGING CHILDREN OF AFRICA ENCHANT A PACKED PRIORY



At the beginning of the autumn term the children of Boyle and Petyt school welcomed The Singing Children of Africa to their school and that evening packed the Priory Church to enjoy a feast of song and dance. A mother who normally works on

a Friday evening was persuaded by her children that this concert was not to be missed: the family just had to be there. To the beat of drums and percussion twenty children from the Jolaurabi school in Kenya compelled the rapt attention of a large audience by a brilliant performance of songs from both African and Western traditions. Vehement rhythmic dance interpreted the contrasting moods of the music through complex sequences, fully mastered and performed with grace, as if spontaneously. Songs of lament, including 'By the Waters of Babylon we sat down and wept' moved our hearts, but still more poignantly beautiful were the children's songs of faith and hope: 'I am not forgotten, never forsaken'.

Joy shone from the children's faces, their music and dance generously flowed into a deep encounter across cultures. The children of the Dales tapped their feet and clapped their hands, and sometimes moved into the aisles to imitate the dancers' exuberant movements. Here were children from two continents who just loved sharing, and who made adults dream of a world where such sharing might one day become the norm.

All this flowed from the love of an Edinburgh couple who in 1998 went on holiday to Kenya, visited a village, and discovered that reading about poverty and hunger is very different from seeing it for yourself. Maureen and Ian McIntyre were moved by the families they met, and they returned to the UK determined to contribute in some small way to improving at least one child's life. In 2001 their charity, *Educate the Kids*, acquired land, built classrooms, and opened a school with initially 85 children. Twenty-five years on, it is estimated over 25,000 children have been educated. Find out more at [www.educatethekids.com](http://www.educatethekids.com).

*Editor*



# HARTLEYS

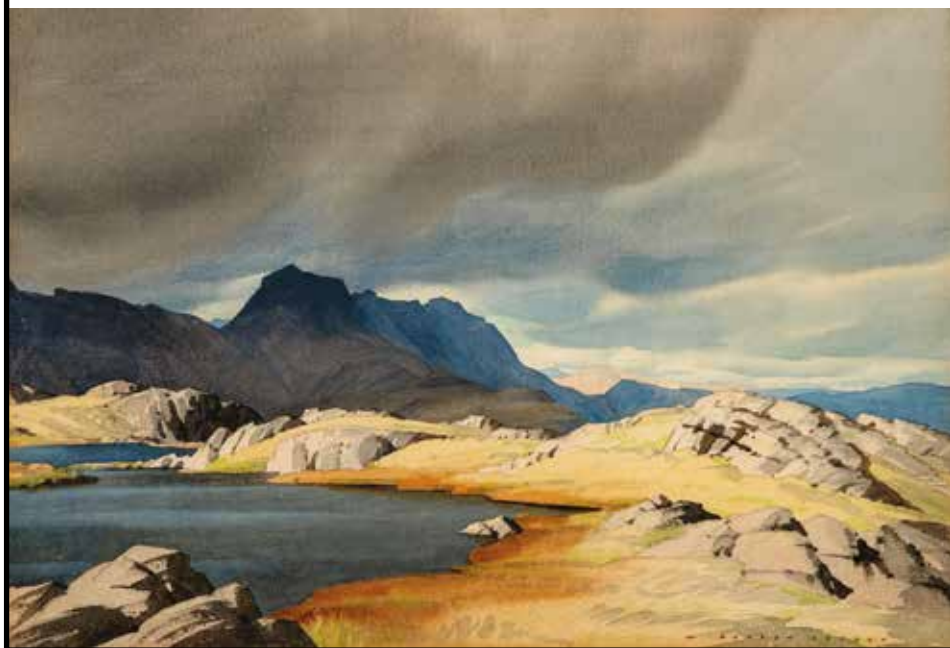
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## THE GREAT NORTH RUN



*Carol*



*Lorna*

On September 10 Lorna and I took part in, and completed, the Great North Run. Despite my best efforts, Lorna finished ahead of me as she had a time of 2 hours 25 minutes, whereas I could only manage 2 hours 33 minutes!

Both of us found the hot and sultry conditions taxing so that is going to be our excuse for not threatening, or even getting near, Sir Mo Farrah's incredible time of a fraction over an hour!

Though we found the run energy-sapping, it was the incredibly kind wishes from the Priory family that helped us get round the course and not give up when the going got tough. Our most successful achievement was, however, the money we raised for the Alzheimer's Society: £2,000 including Gift Aid. But that achievement was not ours alone, but derived from the many donations sent to the Society, not least from members of the Priory, but also from colleagues at The Grammar School at Leeds, and from friends and family whose kind words and encouragement enabled Lorna and me to complete the course.

Many of you shared personal stories about friends or family members impacted by dementia and the challenges faced by those caring for them.

It was good that we could all come together to do something practical. However, it was also the words of encouragement that were helpful on the day. I know there are so many deserving charities, so it was also motivational simply to hear those words of encouragement from people already committed to raising money for other equally debilitating illnesses or vital charity work. Both Lorna and I say: 'THANK YOU!'

It may amuse you to hear that after the run Lorna and I were caught in a storm of 'Biblical proportions' in South Shields. We were soaked literally to the skin, and I had foolishly forgotten to use my rucksack lining; consequently, my spare clothes and shoes were equally as wet as those I stood up in. My mobile phone would not work and we, along with about 40,000 other people, were stranded in South Shields as the Metro and roads were rendered impassible. My irritation knew no bounds at that point! However, we discovered that the Metro station at Tyne Dock, about 3 miles away, was still operating so, rather than hang about in queues which were not moving, we decided to walk there as quickly as possible and catch the tube. We got to Tyne Dock possibly faster than I had managed parts of the Great North Run - it's amazing how wet underwear can motivate you into finding renewed energy! I felt hard done by and very sorry for myself, but then I got home and saw the news and the tragedy of people who had lost everything in the Atlas mountains, and felt humbled at my irritation at being delayed.

Once again, many thanks to you all!

*Carol and Lorna*

## ADVENT PRAYER

God our healer, whose mercy is like a refining fire,  
Touch us with your judgement, and confront us with your tenderness;  
That, being comforted by you, we may reach out to a troubled world,  
Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

*Janet Morley*

## SETTLE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY – AN EXCITING SEASON AHEAD

Settle Orchestra, a full-sized symphony orchestra based in the Craven district of North Yorkshire, is looking forward to another exciting season in 2023-24.

Each year we welcome a young conductor from the graduate conducting course at the Royal Northern College of Music. This year's conductor is Maria Camila ("Maca") Barbosa, a pianist and conductor from Columbia, who has already an impressive CV with conducting appearances in Bogotá, Sao Paulo, Florence, and Manchester – and even an earlier cameo appearance with Settle Orchestra!

We will be giving two concerts each term, one in Settle and one in Skipton. In the autumn we join forces with the Langcliffe Singers for Brahms' wonderfully moving and consoling *German Requiem*, with concerts in Skipton on 18 November, conducted by Maca Barbosa, and in Settle on 25 November, conducted by Darren Everhart, a long-time favourite of local audiences.

For the concerts in spring and summer 2024 Maca has chosen some very popular and impressive works, including Elgar's cello concerto with Bob Buller, our principal cellist, Richard Strauss' *First Horn Concerto*, and Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony*.

We are always glad to hear from anyone who might like to join Settle Orchestra or write music for us. We particularly welcome young instrumentalists and composers, and currently have vacancies for string and brass players. Rehearsals take place on Friday evenings in Settle. We sometimes need additional players for specific concerts and would be happy to hear from any local professionals interested in playing.

Why not come along to one of our concerts, in Settle or in Skipton, to enjoy an exhilarating evening, support local musicians and help keep music live? Full details of future concerts and contacts are on our website [www.settleorchestra.org.uk](http://www.settleorchestra.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you soon!



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Saturday 18th November, 7.30pm  
Christ Church, Skipton  
Saturday 25th November, 7.30pm  
Settle Parish Church

 **40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Langcliffe Singers reg. charity 1007885

Settle Orchestra reg. charity 1025864

## WHAT OUR VISITORS SAY

Years ago, George Moffat asked me to attend a Church Tourism conference, the object of which was to get people to look at their church and highlight parts of it which could be used to attract people into it: beautiful stained-glass windows, for instance, or carvings. When the other delegates saw where I was from their attitude was, 'It's easy for you. You're a honeypot church'. Yes, we have a lovely building in a picturesque setting, but it takes a lot of busy bees to make honey. Our visitors' comments show that they appreciate the work that goes into making this a 'honeypot'. Thank you to all our busy bees.

- *Walking around in the priory feels like falling into Ken Follet's 'Pillars of the Earth'. Stunning!*
  - It's my good luck that I am here today (from Pakistan). Really impressed by the good culture and humanity of Great Britain people. God bless you all.
  - *What a breath-taking place. God bless all those who worship here.*
  - Thank you for keeping this gem in great condition.
  - *We are having a lovely rain and wet day out.*
  - Quiet place where you can calm down.
  - *Thank you for opening your doors and allowing us to see some amazing history.*
  - Beautiful. Flower-arranging was gorgeous.
  - *Wow. Words cannot begin to describe the attention to detail in this place of worship. The sheer vastness of creativity put into each individual piece of architecture is second to none. The intricacy matched with the perspicuous design is not only breath-taking, but also medicine for the soul. Amen.*
  - Maya's first church. Aged 3 months.
  - *It is lovely to see that people can take good care of a really old and memorable building. Thank you so much.*
  - Very emotional. I feel God here.
  - *Lovely calm space, inviting connection with hundreds of years of praying for peace.*
  - I am an atheist but loved the beautiful building and its amazing history.
  - *Returning after 10 years married. (Proposal in this very church.)*
  - Fancy! Such a lovely place to visit and we've only just found it.
  - *I was a bridesmaid here when I was 9.*
  - Better than Keighley.
  - *Excellent sermon. Lovely service.*
  - Good selection of gifts.
  - *Some tea would be nice, but lovely all the same.*
  - Beautiful. Memories of my daughter's wedding 10 years ago.
  - *Prayer-filled. Thank you.*
  - Long may it remain. (Credit to the people who care).
  - *A little piece of heaven.*
  - Wonderful Abbey. We need one in NZ.
  - *Yeah baby. Cool!*
- In August and September we have had visitors from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Canary Islands, Chile, China, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Italy, Kurdistan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uganda, USA, Venezuela.
- Footfall in August was 10,177 and in September only 6122 (Holidays are over!)
- Liz Higgins



**THE WEDNESDAY NIGHTERS**  
**Everyone Welcome**  
**Bolton Abbey Village Hall, Wednesdays at 19.30**

**01 Nov            The Leeds/Liverpool Canal, presented by Alun Pugh**

If you would like to help with refreshments or would like to bring a cake please have a word with Margaret Cody: 01756 710587

**06 Dec            Christmas Dinner**

*Tickets for the Christmas Dinner are now on sale from Margaret.*

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING THANK YOU**

A great big thank you to all those who came, helped, and donated for the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Everyone had a most enjoyable time. The amount raised will be just over £700, as at the time of writing there is still a little money to come in. Thank you everyone.

*Margaret Cody*

**BAT WALK AT BOLTON ABBEY**



On Tuesday evening we welcomed holidaymakers and local residents for a bat walk by the river Wharfe. It was a perfectly still evening and subsequently very peaceful. As the sun set, everything changed. The night skies were filled with high pitched noises, called echolocation, as the common pipistrelle and the pipistrelle supreme darted through

the trees along the river bank. Bats use the echo from their screams to navigate and hunt for food. The sound is above 20,000 Hz (ultrasonic) and therefore we cannot hear it without special equipment. As each of us carried a bat detector, we didn't miss a thing, including the unmistakable "raspberry" sound commonly referred to as the feeding buzz. Later in the evening and with the aid of a thermal camera, we watched Daubenton bats feed on the river.

*Moira Smith, Visitor Manager, Bolton Abbey*



## In Bible's Genesis is Told

Aaron Jonathan Dickson (b. 1949)



<sup>1</sup> In Bible's Genesis is told,  
Went Abraham to God's abode;  
Where he to offer, for Lord's day,  
His only son, Isaac, to slay.

<sup>2</sup> So wood he clave for fire to set,  
Burnt offerings his mind to whet,  
And these upon his son he laid,  
And to his hand he took his blade.

<sup>3</sup> Then did his son, young Isaac, ask,  
"Where is the lamb to do this task?"  
His father Abraham replied,  
"My son, God will a lamb provide."

<sup>4</sup> As Abraham took blade to slay,  
On altar built thus to convey,  
from Heav'n an Angel did him call,  
"Let not upon thy son hand fall."


<sup>5</sup> A ram was in a thicket caught,  
This Abraham to hand did take,  
To slay instead of Isaac dear,  
And offered it upon the fire.

<sup>6</sup> To Abraham did God proclaim,  
"I bless thee and thy offspring same,  
Because thou did my voice obey,  
Withheld thou not thy son to slay."

*Genesis 22. 2-18*

*Jonathan Dickson (b. 1949)*

*Paraphrase of the 2nd Lesson  
from 9 Lessons and Carols*



# BOLTON PRIORY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

## CHRISTMAS EVE 4PM



Everyone, but especially families with small and not so small children, is invited to begin their celebration of Christmas at Bolton Priory. As the sky darkens on Christmas Eve, come and join folk making their way down the hillside to this ancient Church on the bank of the River Wharfe. A star is shining on the Christmas tree, the church is beautifully decorated, lights twinkle, the organ is playing, the Rector is standing at the door to welcome you, and a Christingle Service is about to begin!

Where did the idea of Christingles come from?

In Germany nearly three hundred years ago, a minister, named John de Watteville, held a Christmas Eve service and gave all the children a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. This represented Jesus as the light of the world, and the final prayer of that first service was: 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in the hearts of these children; let their hearts become like yours'. In the late 1700s, members of that church came to settle in England and brought the Christingle Service to these islands. In our day the Christingle Service has become widely celebrated and much loved in the Church of England.

What do the different parts of the Christingle represent?

- The orange is round like the world.
- The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark, like the love of God.
- The red ribbon goes all around the world and reminds us that Jesus shed his blood when he died for us.
- The four sticks point in all directions towards the world God has created, and represent North, South, East, and West. The four sticks also represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.
- The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets) represent the fruits, nurtured by the sun and the rain, and given to sustain life on the earth.

What does the word 'Christingle' mean?

- It is likely that 'Christingle', is an English version of the German 'Christkindl', meaning 'little Christ Child'. In some parts of Germany, it is this 'little Christ child' who brings presents for the children.

At our service carols will be sung, and the Crib blessed. The story of the first Christmas will be told. Towards the end of the service, the church will be darkened.

Each child is given a Christingle to hold, and with great care to keep everyone safe, the candles are lit and then in a moment of stillness, we shall see the glow of many candles symbolising the light of Christ, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

*Editor*



## CHRISTMAS 2023

### Thursday 14th December

6.00 pm Bolton Abbey Estate Carol Service  
All welcome

### Sunday 17th December

8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Sung Eucharist  
4.30 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

### Tuesday 19th December

6.00 pm Boyle & Petyt School Carol Service

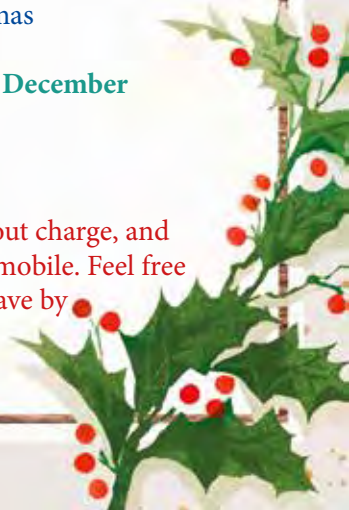
### Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December

8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Sung Eucharist  
4.00 pm Christingle  
11.00 pm First Eucharist of Christmas

### Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am Festal Eucharist

Please park in the Village Car Park, without charge, and leave parking at the Priory for those less mobile. Feel free to drop passengers outside church and leave by the north gate using a one way system. Please bring a torch.



## PRIORY DIRECTORY

Rector	The Revd Nicholas Mercer	01756 710326
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Churchwarden	Joyce Simpson	01943 872882
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PCC Treasurer	Michael Heatley	01423 509629
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Concert Coordinator	Volunteer needed, please	
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Deanery Synod	Peter Lambert	07985 136819
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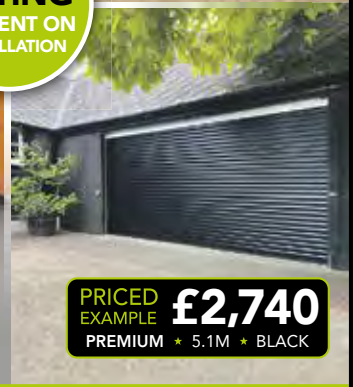






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