



10th to 16th January 2021
The First Sunday After Epiphany

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Bolton Priory. We are a Christian community in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park who welcomes everyone and celebrates human diversity.

Who we are

Bolton Priory is an Anglican Church, within 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, not only to reflecting the glory and majesty of God in its worship but proclaiming the Gospel particularly by seeking social justice and stewardship of God's creation.

We are now in the season of Epiphany which means the manifestation of the Christ Child. On Wednesday, we were reminded of the story of the wise men who journeyed to see the Christ Child but did so under difficult circumstances. Not only did they encounter danger on their outward journey but were forced to travel home by a different route. We too are living in dangerous times and we have also been forced to take a different route, again, at the beginning of this New Year. Let us remember once again the sick, the dying, the bereaved and the lonely. Let us remember all those who care for the suffering and give thanks to God for the gifts presented to us not least through his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

God our Father
In love you sent your Son
That the world may have life:
Lead us to seek him amongst the outcast
And find him in those in need
For Jesus Christ's sake
Amen

Anniversary of Death

Mary Liddle (2018), Pat Davidson (2012), Stan Gray (2009), Pat Allon (2008)

***The Priory Church is now closed. The Tower remains open for private prayer.
Services are on-line.***

The Collect for the First Sunday After Epiphany

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle: Romans 12.1-5 NRSV

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office; so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

The Gospel Reading: St Mark 1. 9-15NRSV

The Baptism of Jesus

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news¹ of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;¹ repent, and believe in the good news."

Notices

Rector's Message

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of Christ. In this first Sunday since the end of Christmas it is perhaps appropriate that we turn our attention to baptism and remind ourselves of our own spiritual journey. Baptism marks the start of our spiritual journey in the Church which is why it is so fitting for the beginning of the New Year. Through Baptism we “put on Christ” becoming members of His Body, the Church. As baptised members of the Church we need to ask ourselves afresh, how we let the identity of Jesus Christ become our identity? Looking forward, how will we let the identity of Jesus Christ become our identity, both as individuals and as a society, in 2021?

Bolton Priory Services

Following a decision of the PCC on the 6th January, Bolton Priory is currently closed due to the upsurge in the pandemic. Services will therefore be on-line only until further notice. Please check the website or contact Margaret Cody, 01756 710587.

Face Coverings and Sanitising of Hands

The Tower will remain open for private prayer. Face coverings must be worn and hands sanitised on the way in and out. Face coverings are intended to protect both the wearer and other people from COVID-19. They are not a replacement for physical distancing and sanitising which must also be strictly adhered to.

The Priory Website

The 10.30 am Sunday services are now only online and can be accessed via the Bolton Priory website www.boltonpriory.church The service includes the music, readings and hymns for the week and a short sermon. On the first Sunday of the month we record our Liquid Family Service. You will also find the latest Weekly Sheet and Parish Magazine with all the news and updates.

The Parish Office

The Church Office is now closed for lockdown therefore the office telephone number has reverted to 01756 710587. The email remains the same. Please note the office is open on Mondays and Fridays until 3 pm and Wednesdays until 12 noon.

Part of an Article in the Newspaper Last Week

‘A Church of England parish has boosted its flock 20 fold after adopting traditional services abandoned by most Anglicans. This London church had seen its congregation fall to just six people. But since Canon Stephen Evans began to conduct services from the 500 year old Book of Common Prayer the attendances have risen to over 100 despite virus restrictions. There are only a small minority of churches who have used BCP since 1980 when a modern language version was introduced.’

Bolton Priory being one of them.

Bolton Priory Calendars

We have raised £520 with the sale of Bolton Priory Calendars 2020. A huge thank you to all those who have purchased one of these calendars. We still have some more to sell and they can be ordered by email rector@boltonpriory.org.uk. It would be marvellous to increase this sum to £750 or £1000 in these straightened times. They cost £15 but any reasonable offer considered! Nicholas

St Paul's Manningham Appeal

Thank you to all those who donated money to this appeal. Clare has told me that they supplied 100 Christmas lunches, distributed from Morrison's car park in Girington. Fortunately it was a bright sunny morning. They have also been busy making up food boxes and delivering them. Everyone was most appreciative and, hopefully, brought some cheer to their Christmas Day. A big thank you.

More Congratulations

'Christmas challenge raises £5k', a headline in 31st December Ilkley Gazette. Jill Riley, Sue Wood and Janet Sharpe started this challenge in early December to walk 100km to raise vital funds for the Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice. Jill said 'We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us so generously. We are very grateful'. There will be a full article in the February Magazine. You can still donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christmas-challenge>

Postage Stamps for the RNIB

The Royal National Institute of Blind People, like many charities, is struggling financially. As a way to raise money they have started collecting used stamps. They say 'Your stamps will be recycled and turned into vital funds that will help RNIB. Show your support for RNIB this year by collecting stamps and help make life better for blind and partially sighted adults and children.' Here at the Priory we are going to collect stamps and they can be left in the Tower, where we hope to have a box, or posted through the office door. When we have enough they will be sent to their collection point in one of their prepaid packages.

An email From a Wedding Couple

This email came from a wedding couple who are agreeing with Margaret's Musings: 'We are in tier 4 so we can't visit for now - online only for us - but very much hoping we'll make it soon. And I agree with your proof reader - we all need something a bit different at the moment! It's a great touch.'~

Margaret's Musings

An email received from one of our faithful:
'Had the first COVID Jab today so I am now immortal.'
I emailed back 'I always thought you were!!'

More Musings

There is an old church tradition that says Christmas can remain until Candlemas, 2nd February. I remembered this when speaking to someone who said that he had read online that people are leaving their Christmas decorations up to cheer themselves up. So if you haven't put yours away yet don't worry and enjoy them a little longer.

The Friends of Bolton Priory Newsletter

If you would like the Newsletter you can find it online at prioryfriends.org.uk

Funeral Services

Funeral services at the crematorium are now being recorded as many friends and relatives can't be there because of travel restrictions and limited numbers. They can be accessed via a connection from the family. The last one was Bernard Windle and Christine would be more than happy to give you the connection.

Baby Basics

Baby Basics is still very much in demand, Lorely has managed admirably on her own. Sadly my input has been only to deliver goodies to her. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed over the last year whether by baby necessities or cheques.
Mary Vineall - 01756 753013

A Thank you from Lyn Bartlett on Behalf of Skipton Foodbank

Thanks to you all for your generous gifts to Skipton Foodbank last year and especially during the challenging last few months. The absence of all our food donation baskets in churches in Craven since last March initially caused a huge headache but local supermarkets raised their game and with increased cash donations, we have been able to keep up with the hugely increased demand for parcels. This poem by Howard Thurman says it all -

When the song of Angels is stilled
When the Star in the sky is gone
When the Kings and Princes are home
When the Shepherds are back with their flock the work of Christmas begins -

To find the Lost
To heal the Broken
To feed the Hungry
To release the Prisoner
To rebuild the Nations
To bring Peace among people
To make Music in the heart

