



21st to 27th February 2021
First Sunday of Lent

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.

This week we begin our Lenten journey for forty days and forty nights. As the ashes reminded us on Ash Wednesday, it is a penitential season in which we remember our Lord in the wilderness, tempted by the devil, yet undefiled. Christ was being prepared for his future ministry and we too prepare ourselves for Easter and all that follows in our life at Bolton Priory. But in this period of Lent, let us not forget those who are suffering in our nation. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York reminded us earlier in the month of each individual who had died from COVID and invited us to say the prayer set out below at 6pm every evening.

Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.

Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

Please Pray For: Joyce Jackson

The Departed: Gerard Baines, Sue Booth

Anniversary of Death: Michael Townsend (2018), Michael Raby (2014)

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

The Collect for The First Sunday of Lent

O LORD, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights: Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 3. 1-6 NRSV

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

The Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11 NRSV

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Notices

Rector's Message

This is the First Sunday of Lent where we are reminded of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. First he is offered bread, then notoriety and finally untold wealth. These are very modern temptations and we will all probably have been assailed with promises of instant gratification, (on-line) celebrity and the promises of riches at some point in our lives. However, Jesus resists all these temptations and, instead, opts for the path that is ordained for him by God. This is the way of the cross. In this period of Lent, let us reflect on the path God wishes us to follow in our lives. The road which our baptism has committed us – the path which God wishes us to travel rather than the path down which we are tempted.

“Above the Assigned Measure”

On Wednesday we marked the beginning of Lent when we celebrated Ash Wednesday and the Service of Holy Communion is now on-line with an on-line booklet. The sermon (also published) was about the Rule of St Benedict and his directions for the Observance of Lent. In his Rule he asks the monks to *“have something **above the assigned measure to offer God**”* during this period of forty days and forty nights. Whilst recognising the very real hardship that many are enduring others may have been able to save during lockdown. Could you contribute what you might have put into the collection plate during Lent or even exceed “the assigned measure”? We would be exceedingly grateful for any monies you felt able to donate to Bolton Priory. A letter has been sent to each member of the parish. Rector

Lent Course

Due to COVID restrictions, it is impossible to meet together over Lent. However, for our Lent course this year, I thought that we would look at the Bible and ask ourselves the question ‘How might an intelligent and open minded person understand the Bible today’. During the five Wednesdays in Lent we will study John Barton’s wonderful book ‘A History of the Bible’ (2019). You may wish to order a copy through Amazon to read it for yourself. However, the BBC recently made it into a series of podcasts narrated by Hugh Bonneville. www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qlrx/episodes/player. All you have to do is sit back and listen.

Wednesday 24th February. Ancient Book, Modern World www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qlrw

Wednesday 3rd March. The Gospel Truth www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qly8

Wednesday 10th March. In the beginning www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qm13

Wednesday 17th March. Who’s in and Who’s Out? www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qmn1

Wednesday 24th March. Nine lessons and Carols www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qnks

At a later date, I am looking forward to discussing these episodes together. However, you could not wish for a more remarkable book about the Book at the heart of our faith. Rector

Bolton Priory Services

The Priory Church is currently closed. Services will therefore be on-line only until further notice. The Sunday 10.30 am service of Holy Communion, which includes music, readings, hymns for the week and a short sermon are now online and can be accessed via the Bolton Priory website www.boltonpriory.church. 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.

Thank You

I am overwhelmed and supported by the love and concern shown to me and the family since Richard's death. Thank you. As one who worked tirelessly to help preserve the heritage of the Priory, it was his wish that donations in his memory should be given for the Priory Church, Bolton Abbey c/o John Whitham Funeral services, 34 Leeds Road, Ilkley LS29 8DS and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk whose services were needed by my son. Thank you very much for donations already given. Jean Bull.

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.

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.

Face Coverings and Sanitising of Hands

The Tower remains 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.

Postage Stamps for Charity

Supportdogs, 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. Show your support by collecting stamps and help make life better for those children and adults with Autism, Epilepsy and with disabilities'. Here at the Priory we are going to collect used stamps, please leave the postmark on. They will be sorted when they arrive at their destination. 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. More information in the March magazine.

Margaret's Musings

I would like to say thank you for all the appreciative emails I receive each week regarding the weekly sheet. Here are a few samples:

Hello Margaret. Many thanks once again, there is so much helpful advice, both spiritual and practical in the weekly sheet, hugely appreciated by us and I am sure by lots and lots of others

Thank you Margaret, a fulsome weekly sheet.

Thank you Margaret it's most appreciated you taking time to send out the notice sheet each week.

In my other capacity as booking secretary for Bolton Abbey Village Hall I received a phone call from the Devonshire Arms. They would like to borrow some tables – 'how many – as many as possible – may I ask what for?' Yes we are doing Valentine Boxes and organising them from the Cavendish Pavilion. 'Fine.' When Charlotte from the Arms rang to make final arrangements I couldn't help asking her how many they had sold the answer - 349 boxes 'What!!' I said. They had sold so many for people treating themselves to some excellent food they have had to stop taking orders.

Foreign Coins etc in the Donations Boxes

Adrian Hendley kindly takes all these assorted coins and sells or exchanges them to raise money for the Priory. This below was his email having just received a parcel of coins.

'I've 'decanted' the bag of coins & notes.

Quite a few Euros and US\$

Small amounts of Canadian Dollars, Hong Kong Dollars and Australian Dollars

At least 20 other currencies

1 English silver 3d dated 1932

1 Gaming token

1 Button

And a further addition to a small, but diverse, collection of supermarket trolley tokens!

I also have some Singapore Dollars, which a lady from the congregation gave to me as a donation to the church just prior to the first lockdown; this will add around £10 to the total. The amount raised on this occasion is £165.11'

Please Remember

Do not reply to any of the emails which appear to come from the NHS regarding booking for a vaccination. Please remember:

You don't need to apply for the vaccination

You don't have to pay to receive it

You don't need to share bank details to confirm your identity.

The Friends of Bolton Priory Latest Newsletter

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

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 whether by baby necessities or cheques and if anyone is feeling generous. Mary Vineall, 01756 753013.

Skipton Foodbank

Thanks to you all for your generous gifts to Skipton Foodbank and especially during the challenging last few months. The absence of all our food donation baskets in churches 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.