

# Friends of Bolton Priory

**PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT**  
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**Newsletter No. 104, April 2022**

**Editor: Aurora Mercer - [editor@prioryfriends.org.uk](mailto:editor@prioryfriends.org.uk)**

## Update from the Chairman, Jill Riley

Dear Friends

Since our last Newsletter changes have taken place. Sadly, in January our friend Jean Crawford, not only a valuable member of our committee but our Newsletter Editor, resigned. She never failed to produce interesting and informative Newsletters, full of fascinating articles, titbits and photographs. She took an enormous amount of trouble and we are grateful to her for all her hard work and dedication. Many thanks Jean from us all, we wish you well.

The good news is that we have found a new Newsletter Editor and a new committee member. Firstly, I am delighted to report that Aurora Mercer has very kindly stepped in and taken over as our new editor. She is of course known to many of us being the wife of our Rector, Nicholas. She has a huge amount of experience in this field and is also a talented photographer. We thank you Aurora for taking on this task. It is always said that if you want a job doing then ask a busy person, Aurora is indeed a very busy person, holder of a full time job and the Rector's wife and all that that entails. So many thanks Aurora and welcome to our team.

As Aurora will not be on the Executive Committee, I am delighted to welcome Mrs Carolyn Smith to join us. Carolyn and her husband Peter are fairly new to the Priory but have already become actively involved. Peter is now a regular 'reader' and Carolyn is a valuable member of the 'Coffee Morning' team. I am sure her input on the committee will be refreshing and supportive. Welcome, Carolyn.

I hope many of you will be able to attend our AGM on May 1st. Always a happy event and a chance to meet up with old friends and get to know new members over our usual delicious lunch.

We are very excited about our 'Friends Outing' - the first for a long time. We are going to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on June 15th. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit this amazing place and such a special year to be doing it. Please make sure you book early for this as there has been a great deal of interest shown already and we only have a 48 seater coach! The booking forms and details of both these events are issued with this Newsletter. I look forward to seeing many of you this summer now that things seem to be getting back to normal.



# Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee Year

Friends old and new gathered in the Boyle Room after the Sunday morning service on 6<sup>th</sup> February, to celebrate the Platinum Anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne. A mouth-watering spread of buffet food and drinks was laid on by the Friends' Committee. Thank you to all those who contributed to such a fabulous feast, and hats-off to everyone who conjured up jubilee-themed cakes and goodies. The event was especially noteworthy as this was the first proper gathering since the strictures of Covid-19 regulations had been eased, and it was truly heart-warming to sense the Priory community coming back to life with such vigour and enthusiasm.



# Fondly Remembered



Much loved Friend of Bolton Priory, Sir Harry Ognall, sadly passed away last April. Due to Lockdown restrictions his funeral was a quiet affair. However, in March this year, a large gathering of family, friends and colleagues came together for a service of thanksgiving for Harry's extraordinary life, at the Priory, where he had worshipped faithfully for so many years.

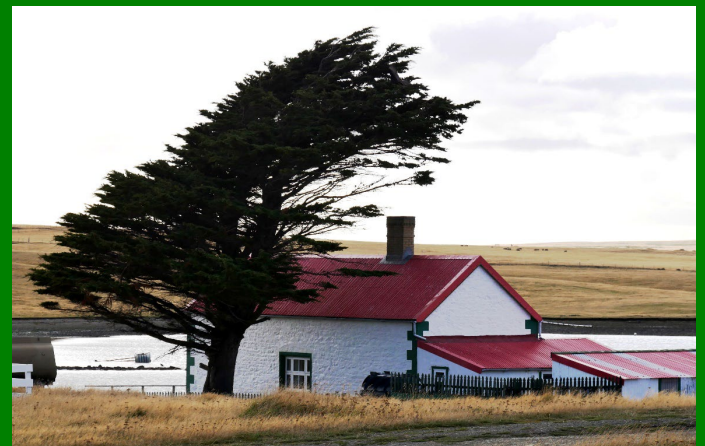
It was a joyful and life-affirming occasion, remembering not only Harry's exceptional legal career but also his warmth, his quick wit and ever-present humour, and his generosity of heart. Harry, we miss you dearly, but we were so very privileged to have known you.



# The Spring Lecture – Ministry in the Falklands

The return of our annual Spring Lecture was a much-anticipated and very well-attended evening. This year's lecture was kindly given by our Rector, the Reverend Nicholas Mercer, who gave us all a fascinating insight into The Parish of the Falkland Islands, where he spent a year as Rector of the Falkland Islands, before arriving at Bolton Priory.

Nicholas shared his experiences of this South Atlantic outpost, and took us all on a journey around these remote islands, delving into their history, politics and churchmanship. In addition to his intriguing insights into the unique challenges of ministry within the island setting, his reflections on the relationships between the UK Government, those who take up temporary contractor posts, and the Islanders were most enlightening. His slide show illustrated his points beautifully, and we all enjoyed a glimpse into the living conditions, and can all now appreciate the need for corrugated roofing throughout the Islands, due to the regularity of storm force winds!





# Commemorating the Falklands War



Continuing the Falkland Islands theme, we bring news of a fantastic fundraising effort by one of our newer Life Members, Simon Mercer (brother of the Rector). Simon visited his brother in the Falkland Islands and met a number of ex-servicemen who have settled there. Having been moved by their stories and experiences, Simon wanted to support them in some way.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the start of the war, which claimed the lives of 255 British military personnel, Simon commissioned 255 bottles of commemorative whiskey and designed special labels which have been signed by Nigel Phillips (current Governor of the Falkland Islands) and Major General Julian Thompson, who led 3 Commando Brigade during the conflict with Argentina. Many bottles were also signed by Falklands veterans and high profile individuals, including Sara Jones (widow of Lt. Col. H Jones). The bottles were sold by online auction earlier this month, and Simon was delighted to have raised over £25,000 for the Falklands Veterans Foundation and the South Atlantic Medal Association.

## STAND WITH UKRAINE

Bolton Priory's Lent Appeal is for the work of Halifax based charity 'Aid for Ukraine'. Please visit their Facebook to see how you can support their efforts:

<https://www.facebook.com/halifaxukrainianclub/>



## SAVING THE PLANET AND GOING GREEN... one newsletter at a time!

We are keen to do our bit for the planet and to save trees (and postage costs!). If you do not already receive an e-copy of the newsletter but you do have an email address, please let Rosemary Murgatroyd [frmurgy@hotmail.com](mailto:frmurgy@hotmail.com) know your email address so that we can do our bit! Thank you.

## On The Horizon...

### AGM-Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Following the morning service, at Bolton Abbey Village Hall (£20 incl. lunch)

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June

Outing to the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

Coach departs Bolton Abbey car park 9am  
Return journey sets off at 4pm  
(£50 including 2 course lunch)



EVENT TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE