

Friends of Bolton Priory

PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST CUTHBERT
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Charity Number 701342

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Annual General Meeting 2018

What a wonderful turn-out this year at the Friends of Bolton Priory's twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting!

Chairman Jill Riley welcomed the 68 members who attended and asked for everyone to stand in respect for the fifteen members who had died during the past year as their names were read: Margaret Hendley, Colin Crabtree, Bronte Bedford-Payne, Anne Lloyd, Roderick Preston, Eileen Drummond-Rigby, Pat Jolly, Stephanie Dingle, Molly Pearson, Mollie Davidson, Margaret Roberts, Michael Townsend, Bill Williamson, Susan Hawkins & Edmund Butler.



Treasurer, Adrian Hendley reported that income was slightly lower than the previous year due mainly to donations not being as high as in the last year and the surplus on Friends events being slightly smaller. However, assets at 31 December 2017 stood at £42,225, an increase of £2,189 over the figure a year earlier.

Keith Simpson said that membership now stood at 251 (or 368 if Joint Members were counted separately) a reduction of 14 on last year's report

of 265 members. There had been nine members recruited during the year but there had been 15 deaths, one resignation and 10 names had been deleted from membership due to non-payment of annual subscriptions.

Max Barker had been co-opted onto the Committee during the year and it was intended to now formalise his appointment.

Barry Cody had been the PCC representative on the Executive Committee for many years but at the PCC AGM on 15 April 2018, Rosemarie Fisher had been nominated as the PCC representative. Barry has been an enthusiastic and hard-working contributor to Friends affairs for many years and it was desired that he should remain on the Executive Committee. In order to accommodate this, Barbara Hopkinson had graciously but reluctantly agreed to retire. Barbara had been a member of the Executive Committee for many years and Chairman paid tribute to the enormous contribution she had made to the Friends during this time.

Thank you Barbara.

Following the meeting, as ever everyone enjoyed a delicious, leisurely lunch.

Executive Committee for 2018-19

<u>Chairman</u>	Jill Riley
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	Keith Simpson
<u>Hon Treasurer</u>	Adrian Hendley
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Jean Crawford
Max Barker, Susan Barker, Barry Cody, Andrew Hartley, Anna Hartley, Jenny Laycock, Keith Nightingale, Amanda Wood	
<u>Ex-Officio: Rector</u>	–
<u>PCC Representative:</u>	Rosemarie Fisher

Report on Summer Visit: Scampston Hall & Gardens and Felixkirk Church

On Thursday, 7th June, a happy band of 34 members and guests went by coach on a two-part trip to see Scampston Hall & Gardens and Felixkirk Church. This was the annual Friends Summer Visit which turned out to be interesting, informative and entertaining. Moreover, the day was blessed with very pleasant summer weather. Our first call was at Felixkirk near Thirsk for a coffee break at the Carpenter's Arms followed by the short walk to St Felix Church. There we were met by the two Church Wardens, Paul Cooper and local church historian Barry Sidebottom who very entertainingly gave us a briefing on the history of the church including its foundation in the 12th century, the attention it received from Henry VIII's Commissioners at the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the substantial rebuild in 1860 under the direction of the architect, William Henry Dykes.



The Walled Garden at Scampston Hall

After Felixkirk Church, we returned to the coach for the 50 minute journey to Scampston Hall near Malton arriving there in time for lunch. Then the party divided into two groups for guided tours of the Hall. We were greeted by the owner Sir Charles Legard for a brief introduction and were then taken by guides round the Hall. Scampston Hall is a family home and we were all engaged by the Chippendale furniture and the paintings of family members going back to the foundation in the 17th century. The extensive parkland had been designed by Capability Brown and the exquisite walled garden had been refurbished 15 years ago. There was ample time for our party to explore both the walled garden and the parkland. Our travel was somewhat complicated owing to the closure of the A59 at Kex Gill but our skillful

driver Eric, coped inventively with the challenge including a surprising diversion to avoid an early bottleneck in Otley and then the mounting of the 1-in-4 gradient at Sutton Bank.

Executive Committee members Max & Susan Barker had organised this visit most efficiently and Chairman Jill Riley's thanks to them on return to Bolton Abbey was heartily endorsed by the rest of the party. *Report by Keith Simpson*

ADVENT SUNDAY SUPPER 2 DECEMBER 2018 AFTER THE 4.30PM ADVENT SERVICE

As usual, the Advent Sunday Supper will be held in the Boyle Room after the 4.30pm Advent Service on Sunday 2 December.

Hopefully, this will be well attended as it's always a lovely social event in the company of friends.

Tickets are priced at £7.50 each.

Please see attached Events Sheet

WELCOME TO ROSEMARIE FISHER

At the meeting of the Executive Committee on Monday 3 September, Jill Riley, Chairman of the Friends of Bolton Priory officially welcomed Rosemarie Fisher onto the committee. Rosemarie is the recently elected PCC representative. We look forward to working with Rosemarie in the future.

PLEDGES & DONATIONS

The Constitution of the Friends states that our funds can be used only for the benefit of the Priory Church. Your Executive Committee has been concerned that only one request has been received from the PCC for help with funding church expenditure in last two years. As a result of this concern, Chairman Jill Riley wrote to the PCC Treasurer in August pledging a donation of £10,000 to the Priory Church heating project when a public appeal is launched. In a similar proactive vein, Jill has written further to the PCC to say that the Friends would be willing to make donations to cover certain other possible church expenditure.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

The Executive Committee has unanimously agreed that Andrew Hartley and Chris Dale should be made Honorary Life Members of the Friends of Bolton Priory. Andrew had been an Executive Committee member for over 10 years and had been an inspirational Chairman from 2011 until his resignation due to illness last January. Chris had been a member of the Executive Committee for over 20 years and had given dedicated service in almost every one of the Friends jobs before relocating to Scotland to be near her family. Sincere "Congratulations" and "Thank you" to Andrew and Chris.

REPORT ON THE VISIT TO HOGHTON TOWER AND BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

On 13th September the Friends had their second summer visit travelling to Hoghton Towers, Lancashire, and Blackburn Cathedral.

Built in 1560, despite its somber exterior Hoghton Tower provided the Friends with a warm and entertaining welcome. We had the benefit of two guides both of whom were very knowledgeable and equally amusing in regaling us with murky tales of the gentry and royal dalliances. The King's very ornate royal bed was in a room with four doors. The King would not, for fear of assassination, sleep in a room with any more doors. It seems that even in the 17th Century, paranoia was evident.

A significant feature of the main hall was a table some 20 feet long which was carved from a single oak tree by 12 craftsmen. On this very table, a large joint of meat was knighted by The King, and forever was, and is known as Sirlion.

The Tower has the distinction of being the third most haunted building in the country, tales of such apparitions being told to a receptive audience, by both guides.

Lunch was provided in the Tower in a traditional dining room with a beautiful fire, following which

many of our party toured the grounds to view the gardens.

A 20 minute drive took us to Blackburn Cathedral which, at 1,500 years old stands on the site of one of the oldest places of worship in the country.



Inside, the Nave had been cleared of pews and chairs and replaced by what appeared to be a careers exhibition for students. Although it was not possible to see the modern interior of the Cathedral as a place of worship, it showed how a Cathedral can be used effectively for non religious purposes.

Fortunately, we had the benefit of the Verger: a lady by the name of Rachel who described herself as a "typical Lancashire lass", and who took us to a more ecclesiastical surrounding away from the main area. We finished our visit with a prayer lead by Rachel before we heading back to Ilkley where Eric our reliable driver, ensured that we arrived with 15 minutes to spare. *Keith Nightingale*

Our thanks to Keith and Chris Nightingale for having organised an enjoyable day out.

SPRING LECTURE 2019

We are delighted to announce that Lady Laura Burlington will be the speaker at next year's Spring Lecture on Friday 8 March 2019.

The Devonshires have always been regarded as fashionistas and Lady Burlington will speak about the history of fashion and items of clothing within the Devonshire family throughout the years. When searching for a christening robe for her son James, in the storerooms at Chatsworth she found boxes of clothes dating back to the sixteenth century which she has subsequently put together in a 100 piece exhibition.

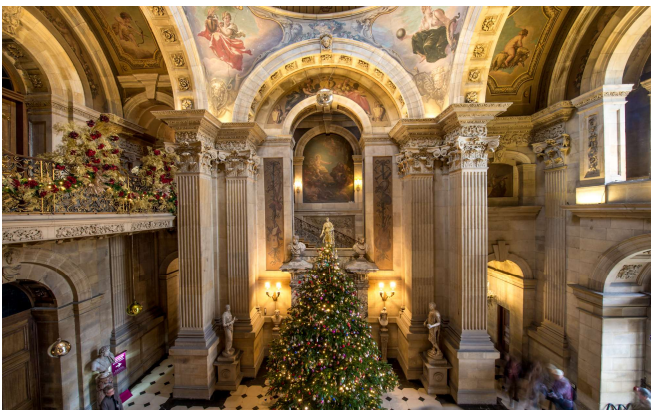
This promises to be an interesting evening. Full details in the next Friends Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS VISIT TO CASTLE HOWARD ON THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Castle Howard will be transformed for the festive season. The house will be traditionally decorated and in the courtyard there will be stalls selling a variety of tasteful gifts and seasonal delicacies in the Christmas markets.

You will be able to experience the magnificent decorations as you journey through the house's grand state rooms. Open fires, candle light and live music evoke a magical atmosphere, with the iconic 25 foot traditional Christmas tree which is adorned with over 3,000 baubles providing a breathtaking spectacle in the Great Hall.

There will also be an opportunity to complete your Christmas shopping in the gift shops, Christmas Market, Farm Shop and Garden Centre.



The Great Hall – Castle Howard

Have you had a chance to look at the Friends' website recently?

If not, please spend a few minutes or so visiting www.prioryfriends.org.uk

This is your website so please send any photographs, memories or items of interest to me with a view to having them included on the site. Share your pictures and ideas with others.

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 events.

TICKET PRICE £40 PER PERSON Thursday 29 November 2018

This includes coach travel from Bolton Abbey, entry to Castle Howard, morning coffee on arrival and a voucher towards lunch which you may take at your convenience during your visit.

The coach will depart from Bolton Abbey car park at 9am and we will return at approximately 6-6.30pm.

(Cars may be left in the Bolton Abbey car park free of charge)

To book your place on this festive trip please complete the Events Booking Form asap and send to Margaret Cody at the Church office together with payment.

SIMON & JONATHAN

Following Simon Cowling's final service on Sunday 19 August, a lunch took place in Bolton Abbey Village Hall to say farewell to Simon and Anne. Paul Middleton's speech listed the progressive changes that had taken place since Simon had become the rector some five years ago. The Duke of Devonshire presented Simon with tokens of appreciation from the Priory Family which included a painting of the Priory by a member of the congregation. We wish them well as Simon takes up his new position as Dean of Wakefield Cathedral.

Once Simon has been installed as Dean of Wakefield Cathedral, then the process of recruiting the next Rector can begin. This will involve the compilation of a Parish Profile and Brochure, and an advertisement in the Church Times

Mid-September also brought the end of Jonathan Caine's three year position as curate at Bolton Priory. Jonathan will be installed at St James' Woodside on Monday 1 October.

We will miss Jonathan, Rebecca and their family and thank them all for their contribution to the Priory.