


## Parish Profile

**This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Additional information may be given by way of printed documents or written submissions.**

*Please write in black ink*

### I. Parish Information

1(a)	Name of parish(es) to which this information relates:	Bolton Abbey
(b)	Name(s) of parish church(es):	The Priory Church of St Mary & St Cuthbert  
2.	Name(s) of other C of E church(es)/centres for public worship in the parish:	None
3.	Cluster or group of parishes within which you work (formally or) informally:	None
4.	Deanery:	Skipton

5.	Population:  <i>The 2011 census information gives the following figures, which are not believed to have changed significantly since then.</i>	Population 542, in 215 occupied households, of whom 74.3% professed the Christian religion.
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6(a)	Number on Electoral Roll:	213
(b)	Date of APM when this number was declared:	15 April 2018

7. Attendance at worship in each church

*Please provide details of average attendance at Sunday and weekday services*

Church/Service	Time	No. of communicants	Adult attendance	Under 16
Communion (BCP)	8.00 am	8	9	0
Family Service 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of month	9.15 am		26	18
Sung Eucharist (BCP)	10.30 am	79	94	2
Evensong (BCP)	6.30 pm		Very few; slightly more for Choral Evensong	None

8. Occasional offices

*Number for last 12 months in each church*

Church	Baptisms	Confirmees	Weddings	Funerals in church	Funerals taken by clergy
Bolton Priory	16	4	22	13	2

## 9. Communications

### *Names, Addresses & Telephone Numbers for each church*

Church	Clergy	Readers	Lay staff eg Youth worker, Administrator	Churchwardens
The Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert Bolton Abbey Skipton BD23 6AL Tel: 01756 710238			Part-time Parish Administrator:  Mrs M Cody Church Office Bolton Abbey Skipton BD23 6AL 01756 710238	Mr C P Middleton 2 The Haywain Ilkley LS29 8SL Tel: 01943 430654  Mr M Hey 6 Grange Estate Ilkley LS29 8NW Tel: 07702 555339


## II. Parish/Community Information


1(a)	Briefly describe the population mix of the(se) parish(es) in terms of its employment, cultural, ethnic, age and housing mix.	<p>The parish itself has a scattered rural population, static and settled, with retired, middle-aged and young families. It is a farming community but also contains professional, executive and unemployed households.</p> <p>Housing: owner occupied 20% Privately rented: 80%, mainly from the Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement (The Bolton Abbey Estate).</p> <p>However, the Priory draws a large part of its congregation from nearby towns and villages such as Ilkley and Addingham.</p>
(b)	Are there any special social problems (eg high employment)?	The Deprivation rank of the parish (1=most deprived, 12,500=least deprived) is 5604, suggesting some deprivation, but this reflects its relatively low percentage of owner occupation and not any particular social problems within the parish. By comparison nearby Ilkley, from where many of the congregation come, has an index of 11,000-12,000.
2.	<p>Please list for each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Schools:</li> <li>Youth centres:</li> </ul>	<p>Boyle and Petyt Voluntary Aided Primary School (59 pupils) Wharfedale Montessori School, Strid Wood (52 pupils)</p> <p>None</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals:</li> <li>• Nursing/elderly persons' homes:</li> <li>• Places of worship of other faiths</li> <li>• Local Businesses:</li> <li>• Neighbourhood initiatives:</li> <li>• Associations eg tourist group:</li> <li>• Describe any civic responsibilities which the clergy have:</li> </ul>	<p>Airedale NHS Trust Hospital is 9 miles away at Steeton, between Skipton and Keighley. (Not in the parish)  Wharfedale Hospital is 12.5 miles away at Otley.(Not in the parish)  None</p> <p>Many locally but not in the parish.</p> <p>The Bolton Abbey Estate is the major land and property owner in the area, including the land surrounding the Priory, the Rectory building complex, and it owns many local properties and farms. It also provides much of the local tourist infrastructure, including three car parks, managed countryside, a wedding venue, catering facilities, and accommodation including the Devonshire Arms. Other tourist related businesses include Hesketh Farm Park, Billy Bob's Parlour (American style diner and play area), and the Embsay Steam Railway. Other businesses include Yorkshire Pianos, Yorkshire Range Co. (stoves), SK Kitchens, Forge Garage, Post Office and specialist shops. Whilst many if not most of these business premises are owned by the Estate, they are independently operated by tenants.</p> <p>Village Hall.</p> <p>W.I.</p> <p>The Rector is customarily asked to be a governor of the Boyle and Petyt School.</p>
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### III. Church Information

*Please give details for each church*

1(a)	What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?	90% of the church electoral roll live outside the parish. They express a preference for the Priory rather than their local parish church because of its history, its beautiful surroundings, its musical tradition and the BCP liturgy.
(b)	Describe the mix of the congregation in terms of age, employment, cultural, ethnicity, age and gender.	<p>For most services, white, middle-aged and elderly, NRS social grades A,B,C. Equal male and female balance. The Family Service (a variant of 'Messy Church' called 'Liquid Worship') involves mainly young children and their parents, although some attendees are of older generations.</p>  <p><i>Figure 1 Liquid Worship</i></p>
2(a)	How would you describe the churchmanship tradition of each church and give details of robes and vestments worn by officiants?	Central C of E. Copes and seasonal vestments.
(b)	What is the regular average weekly giving of those 16 years & over and what proportion of the giving is gift aided?	<p>£842 per week cash and envelopes (£449 gift aided)            £1,028 per week Planned Giving            The average Planned Giving amount per person per week (April-June 2018) is £17.90.</p>
(c)	When did you last have a stewardship campaign?	2015. The campaign planned for 2018 has been deferred.
3.	How does each Church supplement its direct giving in order to meet its financial	<p>A number of initiatives, principally:            Rolling auction £3,494.</p>

	needs?	Concert series £3,019  Mince Pie bazaar £380  Magazine £310  Grassington Festival £150.  Sales Table £16,298    <i>Figure 2 Part of Sales Table</i>								
4(a)	What amount of working expenses were paid to the clergy in the last financial year?	Rector: £1,363 Curate: £1,621								
(b)	Were these met in full?	Yes								
(c)	Is there an annual discussion about level of expenses as part of the PCC's budgeting process?	Yes. (Finance sub-committee of the PCC)								
5(a)	What amount of Share has (a) been requested; and (b) been paid from the parish in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>last year?</li><li>current year?</li><li>next year?</li></ul>	<table><thead><tr><th><u>Share requested</u></th><th><u>Share Paid</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>£120,232</td><td>Paid in full</td></tr><tr><td>£114,220</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>not yet available</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	<u>Share requested</u>	<u>Share Paid</u>	£120,232	Paid in full	£114,220		not yet available	
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£120,232	Paid in full									
£114,220										
not yet available										
(b)	Will this year's be met?	It is budgeted to be paid in full.								
6(a)	Is there any capital project in hand at the moment?	A project to replace the current inefficient and unreliable heating system with one using underfloor heating.								

		At the time of writing (08.09.2018), the system has been designed and costed (£558k), a contractor identified, and DAC approval is expected shortly.
(b)	Please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met.	PCC has already spent £50,000 on planning phase. Budget for construction, installation and commissioning phases agreed at £557,516 Approximately 50% of costs already secured or committed. Further PCC fundraising is in progress.
7.	Please attach a copy of the last PCC accounts.	
8(a)	What is the general state of repair of: the Church(es) - <i>please list</i>	<p>The most recent Quinquennial Inspection (04.05.2018) stated:</p> <p><i>'The church is, overall, in good condition and the PCC and churchwardens are to be congratulated on their stewardship of the building. The renewal of the lighting installation was a significant, and very necessary, undertaking which has transformed the interior.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed renewal of the heating system will also greatly enhance the usability of the building for both parishioners and visitors. It is to be regretted that this will not enable the external heating plant to be entirely removed, but the obstacles to this were insurmountable.'</i></p> <div data-bbox="798 1270 1334 1688" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><i>Figure 3 Lighting renewal; hanging incandescent lights (L) have been replaced by recessed LED lights (R)</i></p>
(b)	Please give details of major maintenance needed following the last quinquennial.	The same QI stated:



*'In terms of maintenance, the most significant item requiring attention within the next 5 years is the overhaul of the timber*



*bell turret. The joinery work itself should be straightforward, but doing this safely, and economically, will require some thought.'*

The cost of the actual overhaul will be approximately £1k, but the

*Figure 4 West facade with bell turret at top right.*

major additional expense will be the means, possibly crane hire, to access the turret.



## IV. Outreach and Mission

1(a) What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish?

A prime outreach activity of the Priory is to welcome the many daily visitors who come through the doors of this historic building situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty. An electronic counting system on the main door has established that there are at least 160,000 visitors per year. Weekday visitors average between 130 and 690 per day, and weekend averages are between 370 and 1170 per day. The dedicated Welcome Team provides a rota of guides who can assist visitors to interpret the building or alternatively allow them to find space for quiet and peaceful contemplation.



*Figure 5 Visitors from 60+ countries*

The Welcome Team also provides guides and organises visits for groups and touring parties, who initially contact either us or the Bolton Abbey Estate.

Specific events and services are another means of engaging the wider community and bringing them through the doors of the Priory. Examples of these are:

- **The St Cuthbert Lecture**

Held annually, normally in February or March, this lecture's subject is on a topic of wider society, religious or historical interest. Speakers have included James Bell, Bishop of Ripon; Professor Richard Morris, the archaeologist and historian; Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford; and Revd Canon Alan Billings, South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner.



*Figure 6 Prof. Richard Morris at the 2015 St Cuthbert lecture*

- **Priory Concert Series**

A series of four concerts during the summer of each year. Past seasons have featured Leeds Philharmonic Society, the York Waits, Steeton Male

Voice Choir, and the Settle Orchestra among others.



*Figure 7 Concert Series 2018*

- **Celebrity Organ Recital Series**

A series of four organ recitals that has been held during the summer, typically featuring organists with cathedral experience or equivalent. These have included Neil Taylor from Sheffield Cathedral; George Chittenden of the Sankta Maria Kyrka, Helsingborg, Sweden; and Alexander Woodrow of Bradford Cathedral.



*Figure 8 Alexander Woodrow*

- **Bolton Priory Mystery Play**

Performed every three or four years during the summer, this Mystery Play makes full use of the Priory's varied surroundings to stage a performance in which both performers and audience move from scene to scene. Thus, John the Baptist performs baptisms in the River Jordan, represented here by the River Wharfe; and Pontius Pilate's palace is set in a relatively intact corner of the Priory ruins.



*Figure 9 Mystery Play*

- **Bolton Priory Live Nativity**

A joint activity with the Bolton Abbey Estate. Staged annually prior to Christmas. In a similar way to the Mystery Play, the audience, together with performers, animals and baby Jesus, move from scene to scene through various parts of the Priory ruins, recounting the Christmas Story.





*Figure 10 Live Nativity*

- **The annual Christingle Service**

This is well-known in the area and attracts a capacity congregation.



*Figure 11 Christingle Service*

- **Blessing of the Lambs**

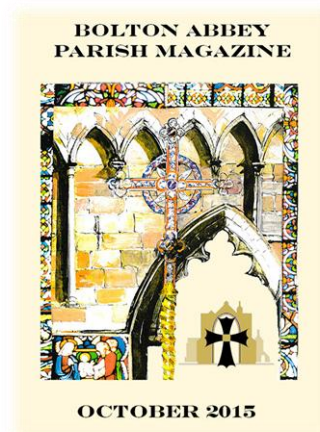
A service that takes place in early spring, featuring new-born lambs, both reinforces our links with the local farming community and attracts many weekend visitors through our doors. In 2017 it featured in a 'Songs of Praise' programme.



*Figure 12 Blessing of the Lambs*

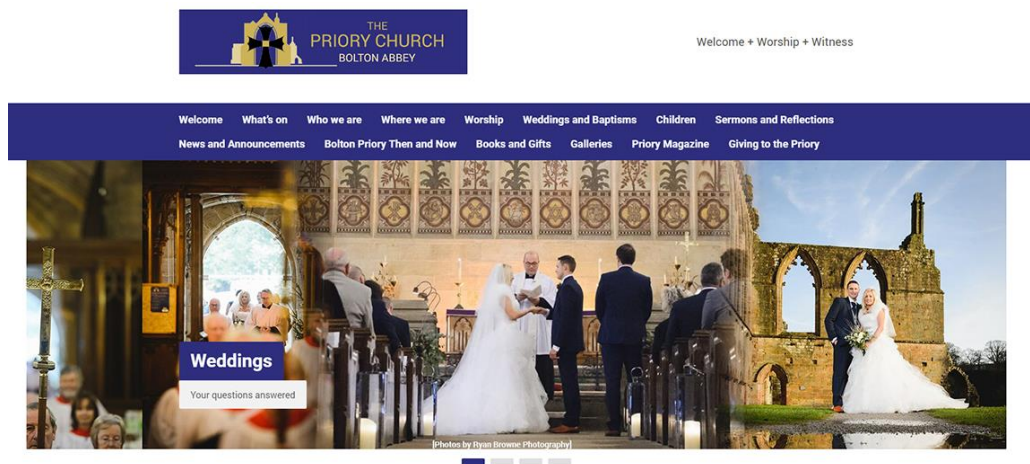
- **Parish Magazine**

The Parish Magazine constitutes another form of outreach. It is a free 36-page monthly publication, entirely financed by advertising, with a print run of 500 copies, and is delivered to every household in the parish.



*Figure 13 Parish Magazine*

Other forms of outreach involve electronic media. The Priory's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/boltonpriory.uk](http://www.facebook.com/boltonpriory.uk), carries news items on a regular basis. The web site, [www.boltonpriory.org.uk](http://www.boltonpriory.org.uk), is a large site with a wide range of content; it averages 900-1000 visits per day.



**The Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert**  
*Figure 14 Priory website*

(b) What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus?

The Mystery Play and Live Nativity, outlined above, are an introduction to the Christian Story for those for whom it might be unfamiliar.

Roaming Carols, in which we process from village car park to the Priory, interspersing carols and Nativity readings, also engages many passers-by on an Advent Sunday afternoon.

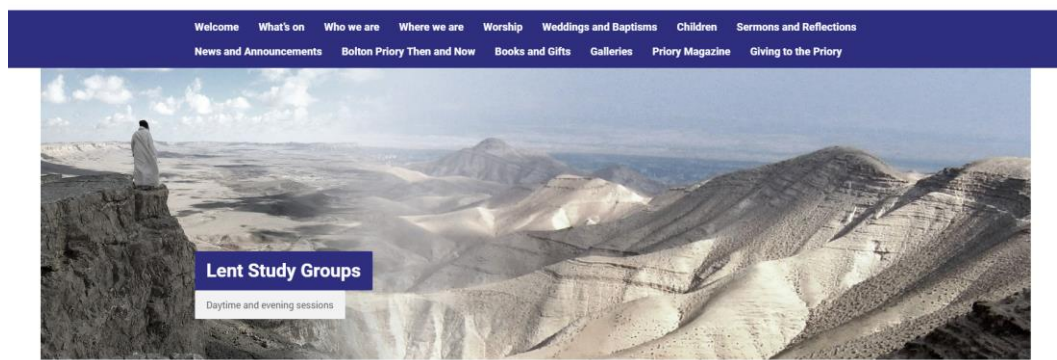
The Sales Table in the Priory, seen by the tens of thousands of annual visitors, manages to be both extremely profitable and extremely tasteful. There is a full range of religious books and bible stories for children, and nearby are leaflets introducing the Christian message.



Figure 15 Sales Table - children's section

(c)	What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship?
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## Advent and Lent courses





*Figure 16 Lent Study Groups*

(d)	What are you doing to grow people in leadership?	Members of the congregation have been fully supported when they have expressed an intention to become Readers or Deacons.
2(a)	Please give details of the support of the Church overseas:	In 2017 the Priory undertook a major fundraising activity for 'Mary's Meals', raising £5,165 for that cause.
(b)	How much is given annually?	See above.
3(a)	Give details of the support for home missions and charities:	<p>In 2017:</p> <p>Children's Society £1,100  Inn Churches (Bradford) £500  USPG £1,100  Upper Wharfedale Rescue £1,100  Skipton St Angels £500  Skipton Food Bank £300</p> <p>£4,000 in total</p>
(b)	How much is given annually?	See above
4(a)	Does the parish have an overseas link?	No



(b)	If so, please state where/who?	
5(a)	Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families?	<p>No. The Rector has personal contact with many who live in the parish. We hold an annual outdoor Parish Party to which every household is invited, although few attend.</p>  <p><i>Figure 17 Parish Party</i></p>
(b)	If so, please describe:	
6.	What part does the church play in community care?	<p>As a very visible Christian presence in this much-visited area, the clergy are called upon from time to time to provide pastoral support to visitors. Members of the congregation are active supporters of Skipton Foodbank, and 'Baby Basics' which provides essential items for new mothers who lack basic resources.</p> <p>All who are associated with the Bolton Abbey Estate are invited to annual service at Christmas to celebrate their work and contribution to the local community.</p>
7(a)	Are there any Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick?	No; this is left to the Rector and Curate when in post.

(b)	If so, who are they?	
8.	What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work)?	<p>Rector's role as Governor of the Boyle and Petyt School, and other clergy participation in school activities.</p> <p>Annual Carol Service for Boyle and Petyt School.</p>  <p><i>Figure 18 Boyle and Petyt Carol Service</i></p> <p>Guided school visits to the Priory.</p> <p>Schoolchildren are a major part of the cast in the Live Nativity.</p>  <p><i>Figure 19 Live Nativity - Boyle and Petyt pupils, plus alpacas</i></p> <p>The priory hosts an annual concert by the 'Singing Children of Africa'.</p> <p>Once a year we play host to a group of children from the area surrounding Chernobyl in Belarus, who are on holiday as respite from the contamination that still exists in that area. We provide a day of activities in</p>



and around the Priory.



*Figure 20 Visit of Belarussian children*

## V. Ecumenical Relations

1(a)	State involvement in local Council of Churches:	None.
(b)	Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?	No.
2.	What informal ecumenical contacts are there?	<p>We are a member of the Greater Churches Network.</p> <p>The Priory has a historical link with the parish of Embsay, the original site of the Augustinian foundation that in 1154 relocated to what was then the village of Bolton. This link is marked by the Two Parishes Pilgrimage in May, where the joint congregations walk the 4 ½ miles between the two churches, followed by tea and 'Songs of Praise'.</p>



*Figure 21 Two Parishes Pilgrimage*

## VI. Church Education and Social Provision

1(a)	Name of Church School(s) if applicable:	None.
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aided?</li> <li>• Controlled?</li> <li>• Foundation?</li> </ul>	
(c)	Number of pupils on roll (approx)?	
(d)	If aided, does the PCC support the school?	

## VII. Lay Education and Participation

1.	<p>What education and training work takes place in the Church for the following (give approx. numbers):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Young People</li> </ul>	<p>Regular assemblies at the Boyle and Petyt School, run by our clergy. Visiting schools: hundreds of children each year, some of whom come with the specific purpose of finding out what happens during a church service.</p> <p>None.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults</li> </ul>	<p>Regular instruction for adults in the Christian faith with a view to baptism or confirmation.</p> <p>'For Better For Worse Club'. Those wishing to be married are required beforehand to join in with the life of the Priory. They sign up to help in various ways: giving out hymn books and greeting people at the services; helping to clean the church; helping with coffee after the service.</p> <p>Lent and Advent discussion groups.</p>
2(a)	Give details of house/prayer groups:	None
(b)	Are the leaders clergy or lay?	Clergy
3(a)	How do you rate the strength of lay leadership?	Considerable amount of leadership and much involvement in positions of responsibility.
(b)	To what do you credit this strength, or lack of it?	<p>People's willingness to get involved and the pleasure taken in a group social activity.</p> <p>The congregation come from a wide geographical area and bring with them an equally wide diversity of skills, talents and abilities which they are ready to employ.</p>

## VIII. Mission

1.	List areas of Church life which you consider in need of development.	Engaging with young people and young families, to ensure a continuum of church membership from young to old.
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2.	What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry?	<p>Becoming more outward looking, deepening contact with local, national and international charities and support organisations.</p> <p>Deepening links with the local farming community, an influential but not particularly visible grouping within the parish.</p>
3.	In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A committed but gradually aging congregation.</li> <li>• Thriving but fragmented membership groups</li> <li>• Physical infrastructure (heating, parking, layout etc.) that needs to be more welcoming.</li> </ul>

## IX. Additional Information

*Please add here, or on another sheet, anything else which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to know about the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish.*

### History

The Priory was founded on the present site in 1154, and over the centuries has undergone both evolution and upheaval. A period of monastic growth and stabilisation was terminated by the Dissolution of the Monasteries, when the community was disbanded, and the complex of buildings left to ruin, with half of the original nave being preserved for continuing worship, and the partly-built west tower being left incomplete and roofless. Like most English parish churches, the Priory experienced the ebbs and flows of religious fashion. Box pews, galleries and whitewashed walls came and went; the Gothic Revival dawned, and the Priory began to recover some of its former beauty. Pugin, a leading figure in the Revival, designed the new stained-glass windows in the south wall in 1851. The distinguished architect, George Street, was put in charge of a major restoration from 1867, the results of which can still be seen today in the pews, the font and the sanctuary. By 1880, the east wall had been rebuilt and decorated with some very original and symbolic wall paintings.



*Figure 22 Some of the Pugin windows*

The twentieth century was a period of very slow decline in numbers, attributable to the increasing mechanisation of agriculture in this rural parish, and the steady drift from country to town. By the mid-1970s the congregation was in single figures and closure of the Priory Church was seriously considered. In 1978, however, Canon Maurice Slaughter was appointed priest-in-charge, and under his leadership the congregation grew steadily, attracting worshippers from nearby towns and villages. He notably launched an appeal which raised over £300,000, thus enabling the financing of all necessary repairs and renovations, including the addition of a roof to the west tower which had stood open to the elements for 450 years.

In the 90s, despite a healthy adult congregation, the Priory recognised that it was not attracting young people, partly because of its remote location which meant that children could not come unless their parents brought them. Canon George Moffat addressed this issue by introducing Liquid Worship, a variant of 'Messy Church', which gave the children hands-on activities as well as instruction, and which continues to bring in children and adult relatives on a monthly basis. Another of his innovations was the 'For Better for Worse Club', involving young couples who are planning to be married as active participants in church activities.

During the tenure of Canon Simon Cowling, there have been several more developments and

## innovations:

- Construction of toilets (including wheelchair access) in the office yard.
- The design of a Priory logo and visual identity, together with a Facebook page and a redeveloped website.
- A move from the King James to the NRSV bible translations for most services.
- New area for the interment of ashes with memorial stones.
- The St Cuthbert Lecture, the Joint Pilgrimage with Embsay, the Mystery Play, the Live Nativity, the Blessing of the Lambs service.
- The funding and education of Organ Scholars.
- Celebrity Organ Recital series.
- The installation of a Marian statue.

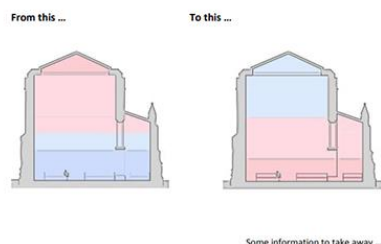


*Figure 23 Marian statue*

- Complete replacement of the 60's era lighting with a new system of LED lighting which is sympathetic to the architecture, and is remotely programmable and controlled.
- Initiation of the project to modernise the heating system.



Public Information Event about the proposed new heating system for the Priory Church  
Tuesday 26 June 2018  
Bolton Abbey Village Hall



*Figure 24 Heating system information pack*



- Initiating and updating annually a 3-year Strategic Plan

## Liturgy

A distinctive feature of the Priory is its liturgy based on the Book of Common Prayer. This is something which distinguishes this church from those in the surrounding area. It is this, together with the location and sense of history of the Priory, that accounts for a majority of the congregation travelling several miles on a Sunday morning, rather than to their local parish church. The present incumbent has used more modern formats for special services at certain times of the year, but the regular Sunday services have used the BCP. One innovation was a move to the NRSV, which has largely been accepted and seen as making some bible readings less obscure.

## Music

The Priory has a long-established reputation for its musical tradition. Director of Music, Dr Timothy Raymond (retired Head of Composition and Contemporary Music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff) writes:



Figure 25 Bolton Priory choir

“The Priory Church has a fine 3-manual organ and an adult choir of about 15 members. In addition, we offer an Organ Scholarship to appropriately qualified candidates. We draw on a great variety of music, ranging from the standard nineteenth century and early twentieth century hymns and anthems, back to polyphony in the sixteenth century – Byrd, Tye, Tallis, Victoria, Palestrina, etc, beyond to plainsong (frequently adapted to English translation) and forward to later twentieth century and twenty-first century contemporary classical music and hymns of an acceptably high musical quality and formality. In addition, such contemplative styles as the music of Taizé and Iona contribute

to the enhancement of our worship and constitute our musical offering within the context of a dignified traditional liturgy. The Priory is committed to being ‘a powerful stimulus as a centre of church music worthy of a member of the Greater Churches Group.’ (Ron Fletcher, RSCM Bradford Secretary, May 2012). Extended choral performances have included that of John Stainer’s *The Crucifixion*, with soloists from Opera North.

In addition to Church Music, the Priory hosts regular concerts of classical music (both formal and informal), Organ Recitals, and a sponsored Priory Concert Series throughout the Summer months. Styles range from Mediaeval to Contemporary and *avant-garde* classical music.”

The Priory’s current (2018 – 2019) Organ Scholar is a sixth-form student from Harrogate, who also plays the saxophone and sings in a chamber choir.



## **Welcoming Visitors**

The Priory is situated within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and a major tourist attraction within this park is the village of Bolton Abbey and the surrounding Bolton Abbey Estate. As the Bolton Abbey website says, "Its landscape is the "jewel in the crown" of Yorkshire's many landscapes, and the 30,000 acres of beautiful countryside boast over 80 miles of footpaths to walk and explore, providing something for all ages. From our ever-changing events programme providing activities for children to fishing on the River Wharfe, you'll find a host of activity awaiting you. Explore the ruins of the Priory and discover a landscape full of history and legend. Walk along the riverside, woodland and moorland paths and enjoy local produce in the excellent restaurants, tea rooms and cafes, treat yourself in the quality gift shops or simply relax beside the river with a picnic whilst the children play."

It is therefore not surprising that the Priory itself attracts many visitors. We record at least 160,000 a year passing through our doors – as many as 200 an hour on a busy summer afternoon. (By way of comparison, Holy Trinity in Stratford, in the centre of that major tourist town and containing the tomb of William Shakespeare, records 500,000 a year.) We therefore see it as an important part of our outreach to welcome these visitors. A Welcome Team, consisting of more than 40 volunteers, ensures that there are one or two guides on duty from 11 am to 5 pm throughout the main tourist season from March to October, to help visitors to interpret the building or alternatively allow them to find space for quiet and peaceful contemplation. Quizzes, aimed at both adults and children, are a very popular way of discovering the many architectural and artistic features of the building. There are many foreign tourists who visit and so we have quizzes in seven foreign languages: Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. In addition, many schools and adult groups request guided tours, for which we provide guides, usually in English, but occasionally in other languages.

In the winter months, when there are no guides, the church is open from morning prayers to dusk; thus far, experience has shown that this act of mission outweighs any security risk.

Inside the Priory Church is a flourishing Sales Table with a wide range of devotional items, guide books, religious literature and children's prayer and bible books. There is no sales attendant; the sales table operates on trust and is a major source of income for the Priory.

A long-term ambition, but one that may be realised as a by-product of the Heating Project, is to set aside an area for a 'Quiet Chapel'. We observe that many visitors welcome the inside of Priory as a haven of peace away from the crowds and activity outside, and they seek a quiet corner for personal contemplation; the scope for this within the current nave layout is limited.

## **Friends of Bolton Priory**

There are over 300 Friends of Bolton Priory. Many are members of the regular congregation, but many are from all parts of the UK and from overseas. In the last thirty years over £45,000 has been donated by the Friends in response to a variety of PCC requests for help with funding expenditure, such as vestments, altar refurbishment, upgrading the loop system, the computer for the church office (twice), a keyboard, new hymn books and pew bibles.

## Buildings



*Figure 26 Rectory Buildings*

The Rectory building complex, (originally a school founded by physicist Robert Boyle), and rented from the Bolton Abbey Estate, comprises the Rectory itself, the parish office suite, two premises rented to a third party, and a large one-roomed building attached (the Boyle Room) that functions as a parish room. The Rectory is a large house with many reception rooms and bedrooms; there are views in one direction towards the Priory, and in the other down to the River Wharfe and its valley. The office suite consists of an open

office area, a Rector's office, a Curate's office, a meeting room, and bathroom. There are PC's in each office. A paid part-time Parish Administrator undertakes the day-to-day administration, and is also responsible for managing the Sales Table.

## Strengths

The Priory Church and its congregation have many strengths. Some of the more important are:

- The sheer beauty of the Church, the surrounding monastic ruins, and the wider countryside.
- The sense of continuing spirituality and worship stretching from medieval times to the present day.
- The ability of the Priory to attract large numbers of casual and regular visitors throughout the year.
- The rich and beautiful BCP liturgy enhanced by a strong musical tradition.
- An active and committed congregation, the majority of whom serve in one or more of the many volunteer groups.
- A strong visibility and presence in the surrounding area.
- A location attractive to wedding couples, performing groups, and visiting congregations.
- An ancient building but one that is in an excellent state of repair.
- A modern and sophisticated lighting system that enhances both liturgical and more secular events.

## Concerns

- The older demographic of the congregation, numbers gradually decreasing over time, with no compensating replacement by younger members.
- 'The spirit is willing, but...' – through the effects of age, a gradual decrease in the ability of the congregation and its volunteers to be as active as they were ten or twenty years ago.
- A congregation largely dependent on car transport from elsewhere, increasingly reluctant to travel to evening services or events, with children dependent upon parental transport.
- Congregations of three separate age groups – 'Liquid Worship', 'Better or Worse', 'Sunday

at 1030' - with limited progression from one to the other.

- A heating system that is not 'fit for purpose'.
- Limited nearby parking during the winter.

### **Strength or Concern?**

The congregation is very attached to the BCP liturgy, and it is probably the reason that they worship at the Priory and not their local parish church. It is also something for which the Priory is noted in the wider area, and draws many visitors on that account. At the same time, it is recognised that it may not be as attractive or accessible to other groupings and age ranges that it would want to attract, and who may instead respond to more modern forms of service. Is there some way in which the Priory can meet the needs of its current (but slowly decreasing) congregation whilst reaching out to a wider population?

## **X. The New Priest**

*List the qualities and skills you would like to see in the new priest.*

### **THE NEW INCUMBENT**

**List the qualities and skills you would like to see in your new incumbent:**

- 1 In order to lead the present congregation, to gain and retain its respect, it is probable that the new incumbent will –
  - a Have a deep personal faith and understanding of Christianity that can be communicated to others.
  - b Have an energetic yet mature approach to ministry, being able to relate to people at all levels and particularly be able to engage with children in language they understand.
  - c Be able to speak in public, conduct services with clarity and conviction, preach in a well-argued and concise manner, and participate in the Priory's musical tradition.
  - d Be able to discern people's skills and abilities and give them encouragement and support to use them either as individuals or in teams.
- 2 Although the congregation has a great fondness for the BCP liturgy, it is also open to appropriate forms of worship that could widen the Priory's reach. We are looking for a leader who can sensitively combine both tradition and innovation.
- 3 The new incumbent must be able to drive and will be expected to put pastoral care and visiting high on his/her list of priorities, bearing in mind that the parish is rural and the congregation is widely scattered.
- 4 The new incumbent (and their family) must be able to live in a rural community and one that is dominated by a single employer (The Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement) with whom the Rector must be able to maintain a good working relationship. They should be prepared to use the Rectory for hospitality, for instance, having occasional meetings and gatherings there, or having coffee in the Rectory garden after the service.
- 5 The new incumbent should be able to develop strategies to extend the congregation's size and age range, to involve wider groups in the population for whom the current pattern of weekly services may not be attractive or practicable, or who might be unwilling to commit fully to church membership.

**Agreed by the PCC of**

.....

**on ..... 2018**

**Signed: .....**

**Print Name: .....**

**Office Held: .....**

**This form, duly completed, should be sent to:**

***The Administrator for the Designated Officer  
Deborah Thorley  
Diocese of Leeds, Church House  
17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX  
deborah.thorley@leeds.anglican.org***

She will circulate copies to the Patron, Bishop and Archdeacon

***Please keep copies of this form  
and ensure that all PCC members have a signed copy.***