

# Friends of Bolton Priory

## SPECIAL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2007

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### CHANGES AT THE PRIORY

Like any organisation the Priory has to respond to change but in so doing it has to maintain that quality of Worship which is, literally, its "Raison d'être." This is no light task combining as it does the retirement of one Rector with the induction of his successor and managing an interregnum of uncertain duration. In this special edition of our Newsletter we are delighted to pay tribute to all who brought about such a successful transition.

#### FAREWELL TO REVEREND CANON JOHN WARD

John had served as our Rector for 11 years and, in fact, his final service at the Priory on October 29<sup>th</sup> 2006 was the exact anniversary of his appointment. John gave outstanding service to the Priory both in his Ministry and in that wider but equally important function of pastoral care. Before taking up his appointment John who was ordained in 1980 had been Vicar of Menston with Woodhead and prior to that had served in Harrogate. He took forward the worship and mission of the Priory building on the work of the late Roland Hirst and that of Maurice Slaughter and steering the Priory successfully through several changes including those imposed by the wider Anglican Communion. John now lives in Addingham and is likely to be sighted on certain Saturdays at a well known football ground.



#### WELCOME TO REVEREND CANON GEORGE MOFFAT

George was inducted as Rector on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2007 by the Right Reverend Dr David Hope and in the company of a large congregation including many representatives from the Diocese and from his former Ministry at St. Paul's Manningham. George was ordained in Papua New Guinea and subsequently served in Curacies at Falkirk and Edinburgh and then at Heston. He was Vicar of South Elmsall and then Team Rector at St. Pauls. He also has the distinction of being Honorary Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen. George has carried on the finest traditions of worship at the Priory bringing his unique blend of spiritual leadership and warmth of personality to guide and enrich our worship.



#### A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO "BRIDGED THE GAP"

Maintaining the work of the Priory is a demanding, seven days a week, commitment.

How fortunate we were that it was in the capable hands of the Reverend James Turnbull with the unfailing support of the Churchwardens; Shelagh Sunner and Matthew Hey

and, unseen by us, that of our Patron The Duke of Devonshire. It fell to James to lead our worship and to discharge that vitally important role of pastoral care, both of which he achieved with that depth and devotion which is his hallmark and ably supported by Karin. The Churchwardens were deeply involved with the Diocese in the discussions which preceded the appointment of our new Rector and they had to make many arrangements, some of them at very short notice, in order to maintain that service which the Priory gives. Combining this load with the demands made upon them in the normal course of their lives was indeed a formidable task. Matthew works long hours as a farm contractor and Shelagh though retired carries out many duties at the Priory. Shelagh completed her term of office at the Annual Church Meeting in April and has been succeeded by Rosemary Murgatroyd formerly Hon. Secretary of the Friends.

The thanks of all of us who value the Ministry of the Priory are due to all these devoted people who did so wonderfully "Bridge the Gap".

