



The Benefice of Pontefract

Parish of St Giles with St Mary's

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AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP TONY

What a strange Holy Week and Easter! When we were all marked with ashes in the Sign of the Cross on Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent, I don't think any of us thought we would be in the present situation as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection.

Each year I always look forward to Holy Week? God gives me the gift of seeing the Risen Christ in the faces of God's people. A living faith that knows the pain of Good Friday and the triumph of Easter morning.

The 100th Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, was very passionate that both the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus give meaning to those of us who claim to be people of faith. In his 1972 Easter sermon, Bishop Ramsey explained, "First, an Easter faith which is always true is a faith that includes the wounds of Calvary. When Christ was raised from the dead, it did not mean that the cross was left behind. Far from it, the risen Christ is always the Christ who was crucified. The Cross and the Resurrection go together... We can never know the risen Jesus and never serve him unless we face the reality of the Cross. We must still repent of the sins which wound him, as our sins always do. We must still find him in those who suffer as we go and serve him in them. Never can the notes of Calvary fade from the Church's songs of victory" [in *Canterbury Pilgrim* 1974].

Holy Week tells the whole story of our lives. The reality of our lives confirms the pain of the crucifixion. We hurt and fail one another. We lose those we care about most to anger, guilt, misunderstandings, addiction, depression, illness and death. Yet Easter offers us the vision of life renewed and of the world as it should be. Death is defeated. Forgiveness and wholeness are assured.

Together now, united in Christ, we set out on 50 days of joyous Easter celebration – celebrating LIFE and self-giving LOVE. During these days, our FAITH in Jesus Christ can deepen, our HOPE in the fullness of life with Him can become ever more convinced, and our LOVE for one another, especially those in particular need, can increase! "Alleluia. Christ is risen" is our cry of hope that all that is hurt, broken, sinful and lost in us can be made well, whole, forgiven and found. Once so renewed, we can then together be Christ in the world.

I pray you have a blessed Easter!

Thank you for all you are doing in your parishes to support each other and reach out to others.

Bishop Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield

READINGS FOR 19TH APRIL

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Acts 2.14a, 22-32

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

²² “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

I Peter 1.3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20.19-end

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday 20th	Morning: Psalm 19 & Colossians 1: 1-14 Evening: Psalm 139 & John 20.1-10
Tuesday 21st	Morning: Psalm 8 & Colossians 1:15 to end Evening: Psalm 104 & John 20.11-18
Wednesday 22nd	Morning: Psalm 30 & Colossians 2: 1-15 Evening: Psalm 33 & John 20.19 to end
Thursday 23rd	Morning: Psalm 5 & 146 & Ephesians 6: 10-20 Evening: Psalm 3, 11 & John 15.1-8
Friday 24th	Morning: Psalm 61 & Col 3: 12- 41 Evening: Psalm 118 & John 21.15-19
Saturday 25th	Morning: Psalm 37: 23 to end & Acts 12: 25/ 13.13 Evening: Psalm 45 & 2 Timothy 4.1-11

Services will continue to be live streamed on Wednesday at 9.30am and Sunday at 10.00am.

The seven boxes below are in the colours of the rainbow to reflect our support for the NHS and ALL key workers.

We pray for those who are ill :

Eric; Linda; Mar; Murray; Hans; Lesley; Gail & Liam; Derek & Janet; Pam & Brian; Cynthia; Brenda; Jean; Margaret; Jonathan; Ellie; Joyce; Barrie; Lucy Nichol; Rhys Williams; Janis Gallagher; Catherine & Colin Godridge; Pat Steel; Sandra Cutting; David Murray; Anita Murray; Robert Metcalfe; Russ Hunter; Ray Steel; Jean Johnson.

For those who have recently died:

Donald Chessman; Alan Netherwood.

And those whose years mind falls at this time:

Edwin Illidge; Michael William Gummerson; Frances Lund; Mabel Richards; Alice Roberts.

ALAN NETHERWOOD—RIP

It is with much sadness that I have to tell you that Gina Netherwood's husband, Alan, died on Tuesday morning, 7th April. Alan has been unwell for a while as many of you know. Please do hold Gina and the family in prayer in these coming days and weeks. May Alan Rest in Peace. His funeral will take place at 1.40pm on Friday, 24th April at Pontefract Crematorium. Current restrictions around funerals mean that only representatives from the immediate family can be in attendance.

Missions Committee

This year we had to cancel the annual Chocolate Tombola due to the coronavirus.

As members of the congregation had already given items for the stall, the committee decided that these should be donated to the Food Bank. Sheila contacted Denise Pallett and she gratefully accepted the chocolate to pass on to families who are experiencing difficulties at this time.

Despite this year's tombola stall being cancelled, the Missions Committee would still like to pass on its thanks to all who donated and we are looking forward to the 2021 Chocolate Tombola event being held as usual.



CONTACT DETAILS

During the current Coronavirus crisis, if you would like to receive the weekly notices direct to your email address, please would you send your contact details (name, address, email and phone number) in order that we can add these to our database. By sending us your contact details you are agreeing to us holding this information. We assure you that this information will be used solely for the purpose of keeping in contact with you.

Please send your contact details to: stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Publication Deadlines

Wednesday, April 21st: Deadline for Notices.

Items must be received by 3:00 p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Sunday, April 19th: Deadline for May's Parish Magazine. Please e-mail items to both brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com

A NOTE CONCERNING GIVING FROM DAVID LEIGH, OUR TREASURER

The CofE Stewardship and Income Generation Team has asked us to highlight the impact of the decline in income from lettings, donations and offertories during the current Coronavirus outbreak.

A significant number (45%) of our parishioners already donate via Direct Debit and Standing Orders from their banks and we are extremely grateful for that contribution. In the current circumstances, we would like to encourage individuals who would normally bring cash into church to continue making their weekly/monthly contributions via their bank. This will make a significant difference to our cash flow in the weeks and months ahead.

Equally, at this time, many people may be concerned about income and livelihoods and we do not want them to feel any additional burden of worry about their financial giving at this time.

If you would like to change your method of giving to Direct Debit, you can do this by contacting your bank by phone (if you have the Telephone Banking facility) or online if you have internet banking. Although you can visit your bank in person to make this change, we are not encouraging you to consider this option during the current lockdown period.

Details of our church bank account are as follows:

Account Name: St Giles Parochial Church Council

Bank: Yorkshire Bank, 25 Ropergate, Pontefract, WF8 1LQ

Sort Code: 05-06-71

Account Number: 16172795

With every good wish to you all. Stay safe.

David Leigh
Treasurer

If you would like something posted on our social media platforms, please email stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com

To keep in touch with the latest news from the Parish, please visit our websites:

www.stgilespontefract.org.uk

www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract



Twitter: @CofEPontefract & Instagram: stgilespontefract



We look forward to hearing from you soon!