



# The Benefice of Pontefract

## Parish of St Giles with St Mary's

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The Vicar writes...

Recently, I came across this Easter sonnet entitled 'This Breathless Earth' composed by Malcolm Guite.

The poet firstly describes how the disciples in the wake of Jesus' crucifixion locked the doors in fear. Their breath fearful and constrained:

'We bolted every door but even so  
We couldn't catch our breath for very fear'

.....

Then suddenly, a different atmosphere,  
A clarity of light, a strange release,  
And, all unlooked for, Christ himself was there  
Love in his eyes and on his lips, our peace.  
So now we breathe again, sent forth, forgiven,  
To bring this breathless earth a breath of heaven.

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2020/04/18/this-breathless-earth-a-new-sonnet/>

The poet reflecting on John 20:19, captures how Jesus brought them peace, and breathed on them, saying 'receive the Holy Spirit' and sent them out, renewed into the world. The conclusion of the sonnet, 'to bring this breathless earth a breath of heaven' is beautiful in its simplicity.

Daily prayer and praise puts us in touch with the 'breath of heaven'. May our souls each day be filled with His fresh air and radiance. 'We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.... But see that your praise comes from your whole being; in other words, see that you praise God not with your lips and voices alone, but with your minds, your lives and all your actions (St Augustine).

Canon June

# READINGS FOR 26TH APRIL

## 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Collect

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son 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, 36-41

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

### Psalms 116.1-3, 10-end

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

<sup>2</sup> Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>10</sup> I kept my faith, even when I said,  
“I am greatly afflicted”;

<sup>11</sup> I said in my consternation,

“Everyone is a liar.”

- <sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the LORD  
for all his bounty to me?
- <sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD,
- <sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.
- <sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful ones.
- <sup>16</sup> O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.
- <sup>17</sup> I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the LORD.
- <sup>18</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,
- <sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the LORD!

### **I Peter 1. 17-23**

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

### **Luke 24. 13-35**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded

us. They were at the tomb early this morning,<sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.<sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory.”<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”<sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.<sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### 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.

### We pray for those who have recently died:

Donald Chessman; Alan Netherwood; David Lill.

### And those whose years mind falls at this time:

Mary Belford; Joseph Trevorrow; Stella Vine; Hazel Janet Pope.

## **DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK**

Monday 27th	Morning: Psalm 96 & Luke 1. 1-25 Evening: Psalm 61 & Ephesians 1. 1-14
Tuesday 28th	Morning: Psalm 98 & Luke 1. 26-38 Evening: Psalm 71 & Ephesians 1. 15-end
Wednesday 29th	Morning: Psalm 105 & Luke 1. 39-56 Evening: Psalm 72 & Ephesians 2. 1-10
Thursday 30th	Morning: Psalm 136 & Luke 1. 57-end Evening: Psalm 73 & Ephesians 2. 11-end
Friday 1st	Morning: Psalms 139, 146 & James 1. 1-12 Evening: Psalm 149 & John 1. 43-end
Saturday 2nd	Morning: Psalm 110 & Luke 2. 21-40 Evening: Psalm 27 & Ephesians 3. 14-end

## ALAN NETHERWOOD Requiescat in Pace

Alan's funeral takes place on Friday, 24th April at 1.40pm. Please pray for the repose of Alan's soul and hold Gina in your prayers, especially around the time of the service. You might like to light a candle at home or use the Church of England 'light a candle' link.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/light-candle-remember-someone>

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



## DONALD CHESSMAN—RIP

I would like to thank everyone in our church family for all their support and sympathy following Donald's death. The cards of condolences, flowers and phone calls have helped immensely during this sad time. Thanks also to his friends who made it to the crematorium, although they could only stand outside due to the present prevailing circumstances, Donald would have been proud. When things start to get back to normal I look forward to thanking you all personally. Finally, thanks to Canon June for a lovely service and her support throughout.

Barbara Chessman

St Mary's Community Centre is not actually open at present, but are operating as a virtual Community Hub, in conjunction with Wakefield Council, to provide help and support for the Pontefract area. If you know of anyone needing support, please contact St Mary's as shown opposite:

### Coronavirus COVID-19 Crisis Community Hubs

<b>Pontefract:</b>	St Mary's Community Centre 01977 705341 (please leave a message) <a href="mailto:denisepallett@stmaryscommunity.co.uk">denisepallett@stmaryscommunity.co.uk</a>
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### Community Hubs

If you need help in your local area you can contact your Community Hub. They have volunteers and a range of support to help you and they are working with the Council to support communities during this crisis. Please only contact the Hub in your area as they are going to be very busy. For more information about local Hubs, please visit:  
<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/about-the-council/coronavirus-information>

The e-magazine for May is now available to view on the website and can be found within the News section as well as in the Weekly Notices & Magazine page.

### **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.*



Joyce Bellamy is hoping to raise funds for St John Ambulance who are helping frontline NHS staff battle Coronavirus and, like many charities, are in dire straights due to the loss of fundraising opportunities through social distancing measures. She is knitting little dolls dressed as nurses.



Please sponsor her to knit as many nurses as she can by 31<sup>st</sup> May. You will also be entered into a raffle to win one of the dolls.

### **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](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

### **Publication Deadlines**

**Wednesday, April 21st: Deadline for Notices.** Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

**Sunday, May 24th: Deadline for June's Parish Magazine.** Please e-mail items to both [brucedalgleish0@gmail.com](mailto:brucedalgleish0@gmail.com) and [stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com](mailto: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](mailto:stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com)

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

[www.stgilespontefract.org.uk](http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk)

[www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk](http://www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk)

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We look forward to hearing from you soon!