



# The Benefice of Pontefract Parish of St Giles with St Mary's

Parish Administrator: Vivienne Smales  
Parish office: 01977 790448  
(Messages will be checked regularly)  
Email: [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

The Revd Canon June Lawson  
01977 706803  
Email: [vicarofpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofpontefract@gmail.com)  
Fr. Rod Walker: 07746 980727  
Fr. Michael Taylor: 01977 702824  
Reader David Brooks: 07584 859569

## **PONTEFRACT BENEFICE THY KINGDOM COME 21<sup>ST</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup> MAY - GLOBAL PRAYER MOVEMENT**

An invitation to join in at home with praying, Morning, Evening, Day & Night Prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. However, the following services of prayer will be livestreamed/posted during this time and will be led by ministers in the Benefice.

We hope you may find in it a spiritual rhythm which will nourish your heart and keep prayer on your lips, enabling you to become part of a global wave of prayer. That rhythm might take the form of saying both Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. Or you might start with just Prayer During the Day – suitable for any time of day – followed, perhaps, by Night Prayer.

Ascension Day, 21<sup>st</sup> May: Mass at 7.00pm

Saturday mornings (23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May): Morning Prayer at 9.00am

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May: Evening Prayer at 6.30pm

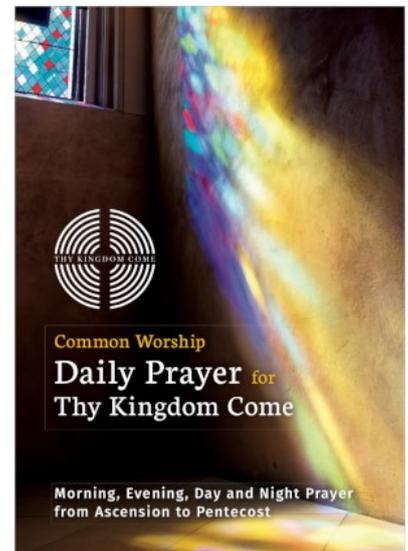
Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May: Mass 9.30am as normal

Monday to Friday, 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May: Compline at 8.00pm

Buy the booklet from [Church House Publishing](http://www.churchhousepublishing.com) or download for free as a pdf below.

<https://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/eastertide/>

\*\*Canon June has 12 free copies of the booklet and will pass on by post or home delivery to the first 12 who ask for them.\*\* Please email Vivienne by Monday, 18th May, to request a copy ([stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)).



The services in the booklet form part of what is sometimes known as the 'Daily Office', a form of worship and prayer, which can be used by individuals or in groups as a structure for praise and petition. It is drawn from Common Worship, one of the worship resources of the Church of England.

There are instructions for using the booklet within its pages.



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# READINGS FOR 17TH MAY

## 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Collect

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;  
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 17.22-31

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

### Psalm 66.7 to end

<sup>7</sup> who rules by his might forever,  
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—  
let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of his praise be heard,

<sup>9</sup> who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
<sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
<sup>12</sup> you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.  
<sup>13</sup> I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
<sup>14</sup> those that my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.  
<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.  
<sup>17</sup> I cried aloud to him,  
and he was extolled with my tongue.  
<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
<sup>19</sup> But truly God has listened;  
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.  
<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God,  
because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.

### **John 14.15-21**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

We pray for those who are ill:

Dianne; Marjorie; 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; Jean Johnson; Margaret Edwards.

We pray for those who have recently died:

David Lill; Graham Atkinson; Ray Steel; Bernard Smith

And those whose years mind falls at this time:

Harold Guest; Sylvia Webb; Gladys Ackling.

## READINGS FOR THURSDAY, 21ST MAY ASCENSION DAY, 7.00PM

### COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens,  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### ACTS 1.1-11

I In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning<sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.<sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.<sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority."<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."<sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.<sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### PSALM 47

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.

<sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us,

and nations under our feet.  
<sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us,  
 the pride of Jacob whom he loves.  
<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
 the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
 sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
<sup>7</sup> For God is the king of all the earth;  
 sing praises with a psalm.  
<sup>8</sup> God is king over the nations;  
 God sits on his holy throne.  
<sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather  
 as the people of the God of Abraham.  
 For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
 he is highly exalted.

## **LUKE 24.44 to end**

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

## **DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK**

Monday 18th	Morning: Psalm 65 & Luke 6.27-38 Evening: Psalm 121 & I Peter 4.1-11
Tuesday 19th	Morning: Psalm 126 & Luke 6.39 to end Evening: Psalm 128 & I Peter 4.12 to end
Wednesday 20th	Morning: Psalm 132 & Luke 7.1-10 Evening: Psalm 15 & Colossians 2.20-3.4
Thursday 21st <i>Ascension Day</i>	Morning: Psalms 110, 150 & Hebrews 7.26-end Evening: Psalm 8 & Revelation 5, Mark 16.14-end
Friday 22nd	Morning: Psalm 81 & Luke 7.11-17 Evening: Psalm 145 & I John 1.1-2.6
Saturday 23rd	Morning: Psalm 47 & Luke 7.18-35 Evening: Psalm 85 & I John 2.7-17



## Ascension Day Service

Please join Canon June for our live-streamed Ascension Day Service, which will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday, 21st May

### ST GILES' CHURCH - REGULAR GIVING

It is now over seven weeks since the lockdown began and we are all getting used to a new routine in our lives. With the church being closed, much of our regular income is being seriously affected.

With no income from cash collections, funeral fees and collections, baptism collections and the café, we are looking at a monthly shortfall of around £2000.

Fortunately, now, nearly two thirds of our parishioners are donating via Direct Debit and Standing Orders from their banks and we are extremely grateful for that contribution.

Additionally, we have the Freewill Offering envelopes but currently there is no way these can be taken in to church. Several individuals who use this means of giving have contacted us wanting to know how they can get these monies to us in the current circumstances. To that end, we would like to encourage individuals who would normally bring their FWO envelopes into church to continue making their weekly / monthly contributions either via a direct debit from their bank account (if you don't have online banking facilities the bank should be able to set it up for you via the telephone) or for you to send us a cheque (made payable to St Giles' PCC) to myself by post. My address is given below. This will make a significant difference to our cash flow in the weeks and months ahead.

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  
PCC Treasurer

41, Ackworth Road, Pontefract, WF8 3PG

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.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joycebellamy>

### 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)

The e-magazine for May is now available to view on the website. Follow the link below or look within the 'News' section as well as in the 'Weekly Notices & Magazine' page.

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Parish-Mag-May-2020-compressed.pdf>

### PUBLICATION DEADLINES

**Wednesday, May 20th: 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)

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).

Like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract](http://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract)

Twitter: @CofEPontefract & Instagram: stgilespontefract

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

If anyone would like to donate food to St Mary's Community hub, please drop off the food by the back door entrance or ring: 01977 705341 and someone will come and collect. Useful food items are: tinned meat, vegetables, cereals, hot-dogs, UHT milk, sugar, jam, cream crackers, biscuits, jellies. Any dried food that can easily be used in preparation for a meal is helpful.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



CONNECTIONS

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** - has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions

**“With many in our country on lockdown, it’s important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are.”**

Archbishop Justin Welby

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>



**Citizens Advice Wakefield District continue to offer a full range of advice and help during the lockdown period. We can help with benefits claims including advice and support on setting up claims for Universal Credit; we can help you deal with debts and give advice if your employment has been affected. We are free, confidential, independent and impartial.**

We are able to offer advice & assistance via telephone, email or webchat

**(Debt/Benefits/Housing/Employment/Family) - Telephone 03444 111 444**

**(Universal Credit – Help to Claim) - Telephone 0800 144 8 444**

**(Consumer goods, services, digital, events, travel etc.) - Telephone 0808 223 1133**

Email us via [www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk](http://www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk)

Web chat with us at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us/)

**Citizens Advice Wakefield District is a registered charity. Although part of the national Citizens Advice network we are independent and run locally for the residents of Wakefield District.**