



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

The Revd Canon June Lawson
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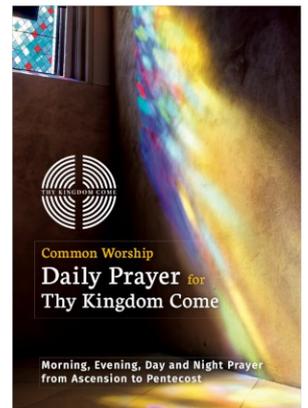
Email: vicarofpontefract@gmail.com
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Fr. Michael Taylor: 01977 702824
Reader David Brooks: 07584 859569

PONTEFRACT BENEFICE—THY KINGDOM COME 21ST-30TH 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.

Opportunities to join in 'virtual' additional services of prayer during 'Thy Kingdom Come' 2020.



- Saturday 23rd May** 9.00am Morning Prayer: Canon June Lawson [Facebook livestream](#)
- Sunday 24th May** 6.30pm Evening Prayer: Fr Mark Watkins (Youtube link put on Facebook Page/All Saints website) Simply click on the YouTube link to join in.
<https://www.allsaintschurchpontefract.org.uk/services-recorded-live-streamed/>
- Wednesday 27th May** 9.30am Mass as normal in both churches
8.00pm Compline (26th-29th) St Giles [Facebook livestream](#)
- Tuesday 26th May Canon June Lawson
- Wednesday 27th May Jill Clapham (trainee Reader)
- Thursday 28th May Canon June Lawson
- Friday 29th May Jill Clapham (trainee Reader)
- Saturday 30th May** Fr Mark Watkins (Youtube link put on Facebook Page/All Saints website). Simply click on the Youtube link to join in.
<https://www.allsaintschurchpontefract.org.uk/services-recorded-live-streamed/>

Buy the booklet from [Church House Publishing](#) or download for free as a pdf here <https://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/eastertide/> 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. **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, 25th May, to request a copy (stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com).

Additionally, there is an app that can be downloaded with the prayer service material—
<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/thy-kingdom-come>



SUPPORTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH during the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown

The effects of mental health problems are huge, and given the challenging times we are living in with coronavirus, it's more important than ever that we take steps to support good mental health. To that end, The Church of England has updated its mental health reflections booklet with new material to provide hope, reassurance and comfort. Please click on the following link: [http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/10961-Mental-Health-Reflections WEB-min.pdf](http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/10961-Mental-Health-Reflections-WEB-min.pdf)



7 of the 13 reflections on Supporting Good Mental Health have been made available as a podcast series, released daily. Listen using the link below to take you to the relevant page, or subscribe wherever you get your podcasts. [Mental Health Awareness Week 2020](#)



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

ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC Hymn for the Day



As part of their offering in the current situation, the Royal School of Church Music are encouraging everyone to join them in singing the Hymn for the Day, updated daily Monday to Saturday usually in the early afternoon - <https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd/>
The words will appear on screen as the music plays. The full playlist can be found [here](#).



A Digest of Spiritual Resources, our online prayer booklet for worshipping at home during the Coronavirus Pandemic, has been updated. The following link will take you to the new version <http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Online-Prayer-Resources.pdf>

READINGS FOR 24TH MAY

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Acts 1.6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ 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.” ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalms 68 1-10

¹ Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.
³ But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.
⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—

his name is the LORD—

be exultant before him.

⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;

¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

John 17.1-11

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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:

Isabella May Burgess; Dorothy Trevorrow; James Thomas Hayward; Alma Beatrice Kaye; Albert Hester.

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, 25 th	Morning: Psalm 93, Luke 7.36-end & Numbers 27.15 to end Evening: Psalm 18, I John 2.18-end & I Corinthians 3
Tuesday, 26 th	Morning: Psalm 99, Luke 8.1-15 & I Samuel 10.1-10 Evening: Psalm 68, I John 3.1-10 & I Corinthians 12.1-13
Wednesday, 27 th	Morning: Psalm 29, Luke 8.16-25 & I Kings 19.1-18 Evening: Psalm 46, I John 3.11-end & Matthew 3.13-end
Thursday, 28 th	Morning: Psalm 24, Luke 8.26-39 & Ezekiel 11.14-20 Evening: Psalm 139, I John 4.1-6 & Matthew 9.35-10.20
Friday, 29 th	Morning: Psalm 28, Luke 8.40-end, Ezekiel 36.22-28 Evening: Psalm 147 & I John 4.7-end & Matthew 12.22-32
Saturday, 30 th <i>1st Evening Prayer of Pentecost</i>	Morning: Psalm 43, Luke 9.1-17 & Micah 3.1-8 Evening: Psalm 48, Ephesians 6.10-20, Deuteronomy 16.9-15 & John 7.37-39

Services will continue to be streamed on Wednesday's at 9.30am and Sundays at 10.00am.

'ONLY A SUFFERING GOD CAN HELP...?'

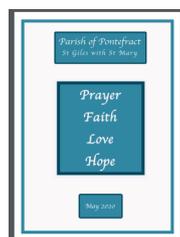
9.30am – 9.40am: Tuesday 2nd June,
Wednesday 3rd June
Thursday 4th June.

Facebook livestream St Giles with St Mary's page

www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract

In three meditations, Canon John Lawson explores the quest for the Church to renew itself in the power of the Spirit. Can we celebrate Pentecost in the shadow of the cross ...and with the backcloth of a pandemic.

Put the kettle on and pull up a chair...



The May e-copy of the Church Magazine was one of the best for some time thanks to church members who came to our rescue with poetry, stories and reminisces. It would be lovely if we could hear from some of you again with your stories about the lockdown, or memories of your time at St Giles. As photocopying is no longer needed the deadline is now **Wednesday May 27th**. Please email contributions to both: brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmmonthlymag@gmx.com

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 straits 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 31st 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

The e-magazine for May is 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 27th: Deadline for Notices. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 27th: Deadline for June's Parish Magazine. Please e-mail items to both brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com

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!

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.



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

Pontefract:

St Mary's Community Centre
01977 705341 (please leave a message)
denisepallett@stmaryscommunity.co.uk

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're still here](#)” and “[Universal Credit—help to claim service](#)” are two short videos giving help and advice. Please select in turn to watch.

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

Web chat with us at 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.