



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
(Working from home during these restricted times.)

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

Services will continue to be live streamed on [Facebook](#) on Wednesday's at 9.30am and Sundays at 10.00am.

A note from Canon June..

This week we began the opening up of our church for private prayer. We were very grateful that members of the congregation (not shielding or clinically vulnerable) were able to help us be open and offered to do so. It feels a little strange having to cordon off areas and ask people to observe hygiene practices and social distancing when in the building (details over the page) because so much of what we want to be is about welcome and hospitality. As the government has said on many occasions, we accept these restrictions on our liberty, in order to best attend to not only our own but others' wellbeing.

In the Old Testament, Cain asks 'am I my brother's keeper', and in the New Testament a similar question is asked by the lawyer: 'who is my neighbour'. We all know the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan that Jesus used to illustrate the answer he gave. Whenever we have had to cope with restrictions on our movements and actions whilst around others, we have been responding 'well' to the questions posed above. And we will need to keep the wellbeing of others before us as we begin to move into greater opening of public spaces and encounter a much-loved space feeling and looking different. None of this will be permanent and we can alter the environment as we go, when greater permissions are given.

From 21st June and into the foreseeable future, we will open for private prayer on **Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays between 11.00am-1.00pm.**

Here's some reflective thoughts that you might want to use as you enter:

Words from St Theresa of Avila:

'May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones,
and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us'.

RUSS HUNTER—RIP

It is with great sadness that we tell you that Russ passed on Tuesday, 9th June. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Russ' funeral service will take place in church at 11.15am on Thursday, 25th June and then to Pontefract Crematorium. Unfortunately, because of the current restrictions around funerals, this will be a private service.



ALTHOUGH THE CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER, WE WOULD ASK YOU PLEASE TO NOTE AND ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACE.

CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES

- Please respect social distancing
- Use hand sanitiser in Reception on entry
- Use hand sanitiser next to North door on exit
- If you wish to light a candle, obtain a taper from Reception and dispose of it in the sand tray by the candle stand
- Use only the plastic chairs provided.
- Follow the one-way system

Thank you for your cooperation.

This week the church will be open Wednesday (24th), Friday (26th) and Sunday (28th) from 11.00am-1.00pm.

Additional Prayer Books. Four new prayer booklets have been added to the Worship at Home tab on the website, in addition to those added last week, or follow the links below to take you to these resources. [Traditional Prayers to use at Home](#); [Prayers for the Armed Forces](#); [Prayers for Family Life and Children](#); [Prayers for Remembrance](#).

Ordinary Time. The [Ordinary Time Night Prayer](#) and [Mass Service booklet for Ordinary Time](#) have been added to a new tab on the website, appropriately called 'Ordinary Time'.

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—[A Digest of Spiritual Resources](#).

BISHOP STEPHEN COTTRELL TO BECOME 98TH ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

On the 9th July, the [Confirmation of Election of Bishop Stephen Cottrell as 98th Archbishop of York](#) will mark the formal beginning of his ministry in the Diocese and Province of York; while it is not anticipated that any public service to celebrate the occasion will be possible, plans will be published during June to mark Bishop Stephen's arrival, and ensure that he and Rebecca are greeted in prayer and held before God until the time when a celebration can take place.



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, what-ever age they are.”

Archbishop Justin Welby



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: [Supporting Good Mental Health](#). 7 of the 13 reflections on Supporting Good Mental Health have been made available as a podcast series, released daily. Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.

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. The words will appear on screen as the music plays. The full playlist can be found [here](#).

READINGS FOR 21ST JUNE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your holy spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son, Jesus Christ’s sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Jeremiah 20.7-13

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;

everyone mocks me.
8 For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
9 If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
10 For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."
11 But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
12 O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.
13 Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Psalm 69.8-11, 18-20

8 I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.
9 It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.
10 When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.
11 When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became a byword to them.
18 Draw near to me, redeem me,
set me free because of my enemies.
19 You know the insults I receive,
and my shame and dishonor;
my foes are all known to you.

²⁰ Insults have broken my heart,
so that I am in despair.
I looked for pity, but there was none;
and for comforters, but I found none.

Romans 6.1b-11

6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10.24-39

²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Sally; Jan; Dianne; Stephanie; 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; Gill & David Robinson (priest); Pat Steel; Sandra Cutting; David Murray; Anita Murray; Robert Metcalfe; Jean Johnson; Steven Spurr.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Bernard Smith; Johnny Palfreyman; Barbara Grant; Russ Hunter.

And we pray for those whose Years' Mind falls due:

Rosaline Tetlow; Florence Gibbens; Harry Taylor; Ivy White

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, 22nd

Morning: Psalm 44 & Luke 13.1-9

Evening: Psalm 47 & Romans 9.1-18

Tuesday, 23rd

1st EP of the Birth of John the Baptist

Morning: Psalm 48 & Luke 13.10-21

Evening: Psalm 71 & Luke 1.5-25

Wednesday, 24th

Birth of John the Baptist

Morning: Psalms 50, 149 & Luke 3.1-17

Evening: Psalms 80, 82 & Matthew 11.2-19

Thursday, 25th

Morning: Psalm 57 & Luke 14.1-11

Evening: Psalm 62 & Romans 10.11 to end

Friday, 26th

Morning: Psalm 51 & Luke 14.12-24

Evening: Psalm 38 & Romans 11.1-12

Saturday, 27th

Morning: Psalm 68 & Luke 14.25 to end

Evening: Psalm 66, Romans 11.13-24

A REQUEST FOR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS

Does anyone still have last year's Christmas Cards tucked away in a cupboard somewhere? If you have, Linda Atkins would be very happy to take them off your hands as she is recycling old cards to sell in order to raise funds for Tiny Tickers. Please contact Linda Atkins by email—lindaroma2@btinternet.com

Tiny Tickers aims to improve the early detection and care of babies with serious heart conditions

<https://www.tinytickers.org/>



ST GILES' CHURCH - REGULAR GIVING

It is now over three months since the lockdown began. With the church being closed for public worship, other services and other events, 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

DIOCESE OF LEEDS—DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORM

The Diocese of Leeds has launched its own Digital Learning Platform (DLP). Becoming a member is quick and easy, giving you access to regular email updates on the areas of discipleship and ministry that interest you, access to training courses and events and much more. We hope that the DLP will enable you to flourish in your faith, learning, discipleship and ministry so that we can encourage one another in becoming confident Christians, in growing Churches, transforming our communities. You can visit and sign up to the DLP here – [Digital Learning Platform](#)

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.



PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Wednesday, 24th June: Deadline for Notices. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Sunday, 21st June: Deadline for July's Parish Magazine.

Please e-mail items to both brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmothlymag@gmx.com

The e-magazine for June 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. Thank you for all of your contributions.

[June Parish Magazine](#)

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



Registered charity No: 1055931-14



Volunteer Lay Chaplains (Mental Health)

An exciting opportunity for involvement in NHS pastoral ministry

The next course will commence January 2021



We are pleased to announce that we are once again recruiting for this programme which will commence in January 2021.

We are seeking people with a strong faith background and enthusiasm, openness, sensitivity and commitment to join a highly motivated team of chaplains, trainers, counsellors and volunteers, who are willing to support those from different faith backgrounds or none.

We offer:

- ◆ Comprehensive training (approximately 3 months)
- ◆ Ongoing support and professional development opportunities
- ◆ Experience of working within a compassionate NHS Pastoral care team
- ◆ Participation in innovative faith and healthcare projects
- ◆ Involvement in a very rewarding sphere of pastoral ministry

(Acceptance on the course is not a guarantee of a role within the chaplaincy team, but is a period of discernment.)

Applicants will be asked to complete the Trust volunteer recruitment process and provide a written submission describing your 'Journey of Life and Faith'. You will also require 2 references (covering 3 years) – one of which should be from your faith leader, and the post is subject to a DBS check.

If you are interested or would like further information, please contact the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Department on 01924 316282 to speak to Revd Stephen Oakley or Revd Mike Gartland.

stephen.oakley@swyt.nhs.uk / mike.gartland@swyt.nhs.uk

The person specification can be downloaded [here](#).

www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk

With all of us in mind.