

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles with St Mary*

*How
is
your
prayer
life?*

July 2020

Please Note

Obviously the actual occurrence of any event outlined in the magazine this month is completely out of our control. This e-magazine is simply produced in the hope that its pages promise a return to normality as soon as possible.

At the moment we are awaiting advice from the Church of England as to how we interpret the latest government regulations. For up to date information, make sure you download the weekly notice sheet from the website - <http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/weekly-notices-2/>

God bless and keep you all safe.

The Editorial team

PARISH OF PONTEFRACT St Giles' with St Mary

A message for Fr Rod

I imagine a sigh of some relief to have passed over most of us, by the time you read this. Social-distancing, no doubt, has been relaxed and those shielding begin to associate once more. I hope this message finds you well, physically, mentally and emotionally. I suspect however that many of us are bearing the wounds of isolation, fear and anxiety and will do so for some time to come. I admit to being changed and challenged by recent events: wearing a dog collar does not make you immune to such things. You may have already noticed that I am avoiding to name the source of these feelings we are experiencing, in a futile attempt, at least for once, to protect our sensibilities.

How is your prayer life? I would be very pleased indeed, to hear that your ongoing conversation with God is alive and sustaining you, I do hope so. However I would not be surprised if you were finding it difficult to pray what you truly felt in your heart, or to pray at all! We are, as human, when overwhelmed, prone to self-absorption. God's preoccupation, however, is with us; you and me.

If you find yourself lost for words, confused or feeling, 'all at sea' with the world, stinging from emotional wounding, STOP.. fall silent for a little while.

For like Elijah in 1 Kings 19. 11-13 God is not to be heard in the midst of earthquake, fire or storm of this world, but in His whisper. His healing comes to us in silence, so softly we may miss it.

We will return to some semblance of normality albeit different, and I pray that wounds you may have, heal to scars. Scars are not a bad thing, they testify to our experiences, our humanity. Christ retains His scars as proof of His undying love for us. The scars left on us by Covid 19... there I've said it, identify us as Christ's own; we suffer together, and together we are redeemed.

With much love,

Fr Rod

Dolls clothes

Dolls welcomed at Initial Accommodation Centre for Refugees

The dolls which featured in last month's magazine arrived at Urban House just in time for the reopening of the playroom where ladies may take their children to have a break from their hostel bedrooms. The staff at Urban House were really grateful for the dolls, beautifully redressed; the accommodation has to remain as a closed community at present so it is a particularly tense and unhappy time for the children there and the dolls will help to calm and relax them.

More dolls have now arrived in Pontefract needing clothes before they can return to Urban House. If you can help with some knitting or sewing or the loan of knitting patterns for 9, 8 and 7 inch dolls clothes, I would love to hear from you.

Many thanks

Ann Harris

Tel 01977 707056

Live Stream Services Update

I'm sure many of you will have enjoyed Canon June and/or Fr Mark's Live Stream Services during the Lockdown. The Church of England has crunched some numbers and produced some statistics about how many people have watched Live Stream Services.

How have people been engaging digitally over the last three months?

This long read blog aims to explore some of the national and local trends seen since lockdown began in March 2020. Churches and dioceses have produced a fantastic range of content to support regular church-goers and those exploring faith at this time.

We have decided to make the research and insights available at this time as churches begin to open for individual private prayer and as several other organisations start to publish some initial findings.

Online weekly services

Nationally, the Church is producing a 35 – 45 minute weekly online service, which is shared on Facebook and YouTube. The total number of views since launching three months ago is 5.2 million (those watching for 10 seconds+ on Facebook or 30 seconds+ on YouTube). Contributors have included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, HRH The Duke of Cambridge and Pope Francis. Social media posts relating to the weekly services have now been 21.5 million times.

There are several interesting trends that we are seeing:

- According to surveys run after recent online services, up to one in five people watching go to church monthly or less, which shows we are reaching well beyond the core audience. Related to this, up to one third of people are not watching any other Christian service.
- We are engaging a younger demographic. One third of people watching Archbishop Justin Welby's Easter Day service on

YouTube were under the age of 34, and 27% are aged 35-54 and nearly 25% of people watching the Mental Health Awareness Week service on YouTube were aged 13-34.

AChurchNearYou.com

Locally, churches have done an amazing job listing more than 5,000 online services and events and an additional 2,000 services and events have been added since Holy Week and Easter 2020. Since January 2020 there have been more than 30 million page views on the website. The Resource Hub, available to the 17,000+ editors, includes a range of online giving resources which have been developed with colleagues in Finance.

A range of hymns, songs and choral pieces have been made available thanks to a national partnership with St Martin-in-the-Fields and the RCSM. In just seven weeks there have been nearly 50,000 downloads through the AChurchNearYou.com Resource Hub. It has been wonderful to read the feedback from churches on this.

Daily Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer audio

Church House Publishing (CHP) lead on this project and, since launch, the services have been listened to 85,000 times. Website page views of the Daily Prayer have increased by 316%. In addition, there was a 14% increase in the Church's smart speaker apps usage, with more than 220,000 questions now asked across Google Home and Alexa.

CHP's app programme

In the first two months following lockdown there was a 400% increase in CHP app downloads compared to the same period in 2019. The Time to Pray app – which offers the services featured in the new Daily Prayer audio (see above) – was made entirely free to launch in mid-March and saw a 1000% increase in downloads as a result. During the period of Thy Kingdom Come this year we saw 40% more people using CHP apps for prayer and worship compared to 2019, with over 50,000 sessions on iOS devices alone.

Training churches through webinars and blogs.

In just three months more than 3,000 lay and ordained leaders and regular churchgoers have now been through training on effective use of social media, streaming services or events online giving and using AchurchNear-You.com. Blog page views increased by 545% in March and April and 96% of webinar participants said the content of the webinars met or exceeded expectations.

Coronavirus resources and materials

Prayers specifically for the Coronavirus situation have been widely used and shared and a booklet from CHP was distributed free to Church Times subscribers at Easter, since when over 25,000 copies have been ordered to help parishes reach those unable to access digital services and content. These coronavirus liturgy and prayer resources have also been viewed online almost 222,000 times.

Sharing the good news stories from across the Church

Gathered from dioceses and churches, the social media posts have been seen on social media 1.6 million times, with nearly 100,000 engagements (including link clicks).

Don't forget our Live Stream Services continue on the Parish Facebook page every Sunday at 10am and every Wednesday at 9:30am. Just simply like the Facebook page to watch them. Fr Mark's Live Stream Services can be accessed by following @CofEPontefract on Twitter and clicking on the YouTube links to watch the service.

Jonathan Harris



Citizens Advice Wakefield District continue to offer a full range of advice and help during the lockdown period.

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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.

Priory Gardens

Nestled in the popular town of Pontefract in West Yorkshire, Priory Gardens is a lovely, purpose-built care home offering residential, nursing and residential memory care for those living with dementia.

Our welcoming care home offers a home-from-home where older people receive the care they need and the support they want to continue to live their life with dignity and choice.

- Comfortable day rooms
- 9.6 carehome.co.uk user rating
- Beauty salon
- Little break – Short term care
- Home from home – Long term care
- Overall 'Good' CQC rating

To find out more information on the care that both homes can offer you, or your loved one, please visit our website or contact our Home Manager, Tamsin Ryan.



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The Big Dolly Project

Wakefield and District City of Sanctuary have been given some lovely dollies to pass on to refugee children staying in the Wakefield Initial Accommodation Centre. But our dollies do need some new clothes. If you are nifty with a needle, swift on a sewing machine or happy to knit your way through your lockdown and could help with some smart outfits for our dolls, I would love to hear from you. Just ring me and we will arrange socially distant introductions and collection arrangements.



It has been an especially stressful time for families in the Wakefield Initial Accommodation Centre. In addition to coping with the memories of past trauma and not knowing where the Home Office will send them, they and their children have had to cope with an extended stay cooped up in small youth-hostel type rooms without the usual support of the City of Sanctuary drop-ins. We have been so grateful for the donations of toys, games and activities to pass on to our families. Hopefully with your help we could also provide some well-dressed dolls to bring a smile to some little faces (and give the parents support as well). Trauma Teddies also welcome!

Many thanks

Ann Harris

Tel 01977 707056

A note from Canon June..

On June 21st 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'.

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.

Lockdown Humour

In an unsettling reversal of my teenage years, I am now shouting at my parents for going out.

Brigid Delaney

One side effect of lockdown is that it's really hard to end phone calls. Twice today I almost said, "O.K. I have to run," before realising that there is nowhere to run to.

Jeff Kasanoff

Announcement - There will be a free public seminar on the topic of "Avoiding crowds during the coronavirus pandemic." Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Daniel Lewis

A Stitch in Time



Alterations for all occasions

Sarah Brightmore
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How well do you know your Bible?

(Answers below)

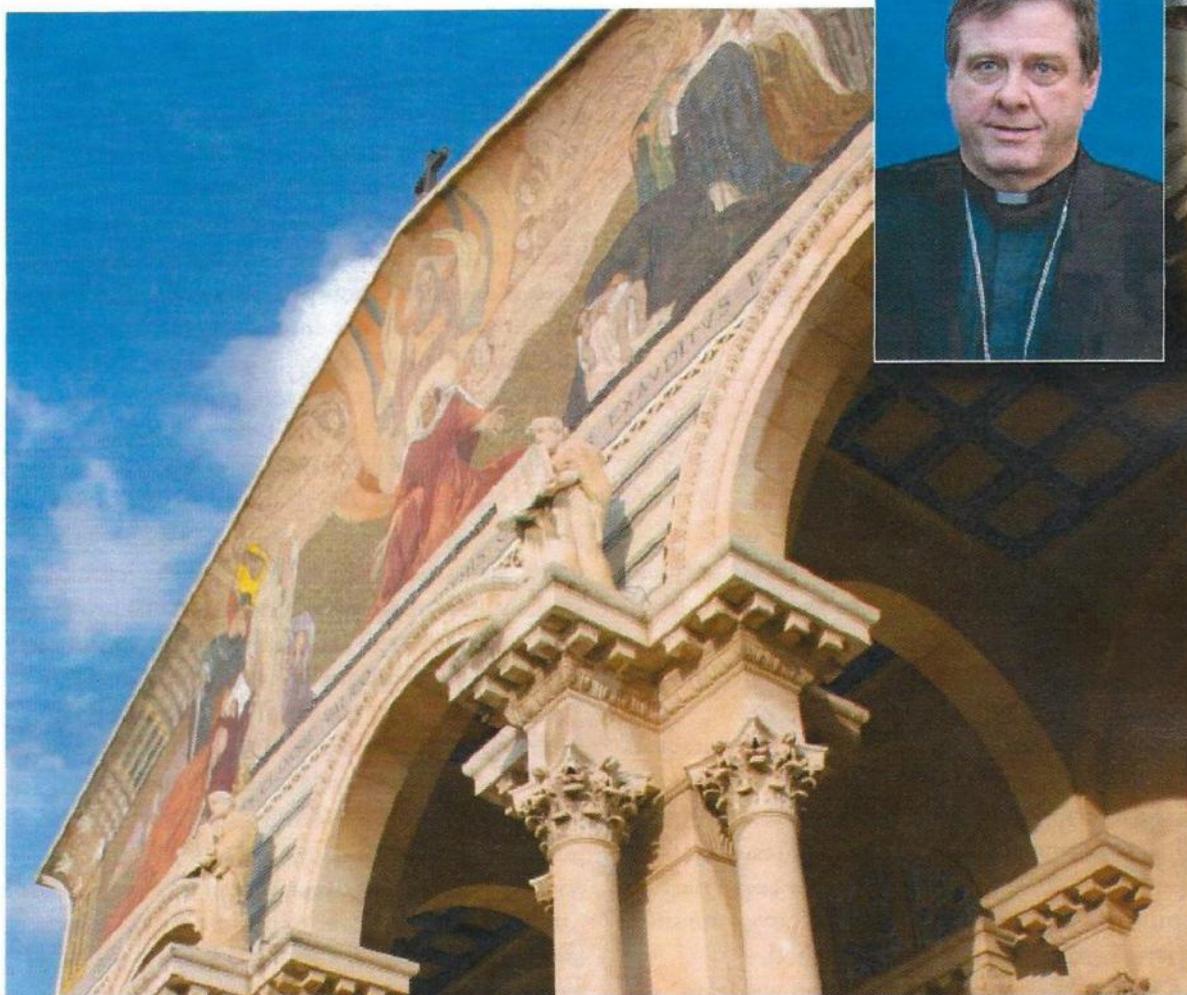
1. What is the last word in the Old Testament?
2. By which previous name was Paul of Tarsus known as?
3. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back?
4. In the bible, who is said to have lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey?
5. How many years did Noah live for after the flood?
6. There are only three angels named in the bible, Gabriel and Lucifer are two, name the other?
7. The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?
8. The Bible was written in three languages - Hebrew, Koine Greek and which other language?
9. Who made the first translation of the Bible into English in 1382?
10. Name the longest book of the Bible with 150 chapters?
11. In what city was Jesus born?
12. Who took the place of Judas in the twelve disciples?
13. Who was the older brother of Moses?
14. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?
15. Who, following Moses' death, became the leader of the children of Israel?

1. Curse, 2. Saul, 3. Lot's, 4. John the Baptist, 5. 350 years, 6. Michael, 7. The word 'God', 8. Aramaic, 9. John Wycliffe, 10. Psalms, 11. Bethlehem, 12. Matthias, 13. Aaron, 14. Gopher wood, 15. Joshua

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Brenda Smith (01977 700052).

Locked down - Look Up and Out!

Time dragging? Counting the days until the next government review of the lockdown? Feeling the walls closing on you? Running out of spring-cleaning tasks? Here's an idea from one St Mary's member to help see us through the lockdown, making use of the slower pace of life some of us have had to adapt to. It's based on a Brownie scrap-making badge her daughter enjoyed many years ago.

Putting it simply, it involves just looking at the world you can see from your windows, inside your home or, if you have one, in your garden for signs of God's good gifts in His Creation.

Thank you for such a simple idea to help us stay positive and together as a parish.

Readers - let us know what you have seen if you have "looked up and out" and we will publish next time.



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Josie read this article and thought we would enjoy reading it.....

'A great article for stroke survivors.

A Letter From Your Brain

Hello,...

I'm glad to see that you are awake! This is your brain talking. I had to find some way to communicate with you. I feel like I barely survived and I'm still not quite all in one piece. That's why I need you. I need you to take care of me.

As time passes and you and I feel better and better, people, even doctors, will tell you that we are fine, "It's time to get on with life." That sounds good to me and probably even better to you. But before you go rushing back out into that big wide world, I need you to listen to me, really listen. Don't shut me out. Don't tune me out. When I'm getting into trouble I'll need your help more than I ever have before.

I know that you want to believe that we are going to be the same. I'll do my best to make that happen. The problem is that too many people in our situation get impatient and try to rush the healing process; or when their brains can't fully recover they deny it and, instead of adapting, they force their brains to function in ways they are no longer able to. Some people even push their brains until they seize, and worse... I'm scared. I'm afraid that you will do that to me. If you don't accept me I am lost. We both will be lost.

How can I tell you how much I need you now? I need you to accept me as I am today... not for what I used to be, or what I might be in the future. So many people are so busy looking at what their brains used to do, as if past accomplishments were a magical yardstick to measure present success or failures, that they fail to see how far their brains have come. It's as if here is shame, or guilt, in being injured. Silly, huh?

Please don't be embarrassed or feel guilt, or shame, because of me. We are okay. We have made it this far. If you work with me we can make it even further. I can't say how far. I won't make any false promises. I can only promise you this, that I will do my best. What I need you to do is this: because neither of us knows how badly I've been hurt (things are still a little foggy for me), or how much I will recover, or how quickly, please go s-l-o-w-l-y when you start back trying to resume your life. If I give you a headache, or

make you sick to your stomach, or make you unusually irritable, or confused, or disoriented, or afraid, or make you feel that you are overdoing it, I'm trying to get your attention in the only way I can. Stop and listen to me.

I get exhausted easily since being hurt, and cannot succeed when overworked. I want to succeed as much as you do. I want to be as well as I can be, but I need to do it at a different pace than I could before I got hurt. Help me to help us by paying attention and heeding the messages I send to you.

I will do my part to do my very best to get us back on our feet. I am a little worried though that if I am not exactly the same... you will reject me and may even want to kill us. Other people have wanted to kill their brains, and some people have succeeded. I don't want to die, and I don't want you to die. I want us to live, and breathe and be, even if being is not the same as it was. Different may be better. It may be harder too, but I don't want you to give up. Don't give up on me. Don't give up on yourself. Our time here isn't through yet. There are things that I want to do and I want to try, even if trying has to be done in a different way. It isn't easy. I have to work very hard, much harder, and I know that you do too. I see people scoff, and misunderstand. I don't care. What I do care about is that you understand how hard I am working and how much I want to be as good as I can be, but I need you to take good care of us, as well as you can do that.

Don't be ashamed of me. We are alive. We are still here. I want the chance to try to show you what we are made of. I want to show you the things that are really important in life. We have been given another chance to be better, to learn what is really important. When it is finally time for our final exit I would like to look back and feel good about what we made of us and out of everything that made up our life, including this injury. I cannot do it without you. I cannot do it if you hate me for the way being injured has affected me and our life together. Please try not to be bitter in grief. That would crush me.

Please don't reject me. There is little I can do without you, without your determination to not give up. Take good care of us and of yourself. I need you very much, especially now.

Love,
your wounded brain.'



ST GILES' FOOD SHARE SUMMER 2020 PROJECT

At the time of writing this piece, we are rejoicing in the news that meal vouchers will continue to be available for children who are eligible for free school meals. What a relief this will be for their families!

However, head teachers are suggesting that this summer will still be a struggle for some. This view has been supported by research undertaken since the lockdown by Save the Children and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. There is no doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the weakest hard.

So, supported by help from Wakefield Council, wdh, FareShare Yorkshire and Morrisons Supermarket, we are planning a Food Share Project this summer holiday and inviting local partner agencies to nominate families with school-age children who would be helped with some extra groceries on 2 or 3 occasions during the holidays.

To keep everyone safe and to remain compliant with regulations about social distancing, this time we do not need help to pack the food parcels and are basing the project on deliveries to school or homes rather than inviting families to pick up food from a central distribution point. The ready-packed food will be available for volunteer drivers to pick up from our food depot on Chequerfield. All deliveries will be within the WF8 area.

We recognise that this way of doing things will mean some people who have given help in the past may not be able to take part this time if they are not drivers. We are really sorry about this and hope things will be different in the future.

So, if you drive or can co-work with a driver in your household and can offer some time, even for one delivery, please contact us for more information.

Paul and Ann Harris

Tel 01977 707056



St Giles' Websites

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/>

<http://www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk/>

Gavin Thorpe deals with any amendments, additions or changes to the above websites.

Contact Gavin by email at gavin0402@hotmail.co.uk

The Calendar and bookings will still be handled by

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St Giles legalities during COVID-19

The Diocese of Leeds has been in close contact with clergy and parishes, providing guidance on all matters as this unprecedented situation unfolded very rapidly before our eyes. The Bishops of the Church of England meet weekly online in order to assess the situation.

APCM and Appointment of Church Officers

Bishop Nick has used a legal instrument to modify the rules governing the latest time for an APCM and the provision for church officers (Wardens/ PCC members/ Deanery synod members) to **remain** in post until **October 31st** at the latest. The Bishop can 'admit' wardens up until 31st January 2021. We were ready to go with our APCM: notices out and the booklet prepared, but it shall now have to wait.

If the PCC needs to have a decision on any matter, the new Church Representation Rules allow this to be done by email correspondence (CRR M29). Virtual means such as Skype or Zoom can be used, provided all members can see and hear each other and that no member is excluded from the PCC's deliberations and decision making.

Following a virtual meeting, decisions such as the authorising of expenditure, entering into contracts or those that require a formal resolution of the PCC are to be put in written form and circulated for formal approval under the correspondence procedure in rule M29 (which under Rule 76 can be conducted by email).

The Standing Committee of the PCC may transact the PCC's business between meetings, subject to the statutory limitations and any directions of the PCC. (See CRRs Model Rule M31). The comments above relating to video-conference meetings apply similarly to the Standing Committee.

Care of the Building

A substantive communication has been received from the diocese regarding 'Caring for your building during the COVID19 pandemic'. We were well ahead with what is deemed good practice and ensured that the document was looked through and advice heeded. Following the advice given

concerning limited entry to the building, Peter Lavine was designated as the person who will check weekly that the building remains safe and secure. We of course have the CCTV system which designated wardens monitor for unusual entry, along with a roof alarm to protect the lead.

Ecclesiastical Insurance, also give advice about insurance cover for unoccupied church properties during COVID19 and David Leigh has taken responsibility to check that our insurance is appropriate. Ecclesiastical have provided temporary cover enhancements to insurance policies.

Finance

The temporary loss of income from room lettings, Occasional Office (funerals, baptisms) collections and cash given via the weekly plate will have an impact on parish finances. David Leigh has written a paragraph for the weekly news sheet which asks cash-givers (who use the envelope scheme) to consider taking out a standing order if personal finances allow. The parish should benefit from the government scheme which contributes 80% of the salary for employees who have been put on furlough during this period.

Communications

The Website, Facebook accounts and Twitter are regularly updated with any information. The notice-sheet is currently posted weekly, and an online version of the magazine has been produced.

A number of resources have been posted online to help people 'Worship at Home' including the weekly service booklets and homilies. A large amount of online material was provided over Holy Week and all services were live streamed. **The Live streaming of Sunday's service (10.00am) and the Wednesday Mass (9.30am) will continue using the Facebook platform. Occasional Night Prayer will continue to be live streamed also.** Material has also been provided about national resources in terms of religious broadcasting.

An Easter card, Palm Cross and letter was sent via Royal Mail to everyone on the Electoral Roll.

Our administrator has been collating addresses and other contact details in order to produce a parish database. The offer is placed on every weekly sheet for people to have the sheet sent by email if they can provide her with details.

Pastoral Care

We have asked leaders of various groups to try and ensure that they keep in touch with members via phone and to pass on any concerns if that is appropriate. Canon June is doing her best to ring people as time allows. The Facebook page, live streaming and email is also helping to keep people in touch.

Funerals can no longer take place in church; this was a national directive. The Church of England has provided some resources for families to light a candle online, and prayers for relatives to use at home when they can't attend a service. It is immensely sad when families wanting a church funeral are unable to have a service provided for them.

Blessings to you all, Canon June

Pro wardens Rota

June 7th	David Leigh	Oct 4th	David Leigh
July 5th	John Trevorrow	Nov 1st	John Tevorrow
Aug 2nd	Anne Webb	Dec 6th	Anne Webb
Sept 6th	Hilary Plumbley		

Anniversary of the NHS July 5th 2020

The National Health Service came into being on 5 July 1948. During post-war reconstruction, improving the healthcare of the nation was seen as crucial to the nation's recovery. Beveridge, the architect of the NHS, identified "five giants" that had to be slain: want, disease, squalor, ignorance and idleness. The cataclysm of war provided the stimulus for radical reform. It was a momentous achievement and, in spite of early professional resistance to some of the proposals, it was born of a national consensus: everybody wanted the new service to work.

The NHS was based on principles unlike anything that had gone before. It was financed almost entirely from central taxation. That the rich paid more than the poor for comparable benefits was regarded as a crucial part of the scheme. Everyone was eligible for care, even people temporarily resident or visiting the country. People could be referred to any hospital, local or more distant. Care was free at the point of use, although prescription and dental charges were subsequently introduced.

During the current pandemic, there has been immense national and local support for the NHS and its front-line workers. The emergence of the Thursday 'Clap for Carers' was a significant experience in the lockdown. Thanksgiving binds communities together, turning 'I' into 'we'. The contribution of carers and key workers who have given of themselves sacrificially needs to be honoured. Sharing stories of people and events during the crisis is likely to form the kernel of any community celebration. Unsung heroes need to be applauded.

+ Robert Exon

Chair of the Liturgical Commission

Children's Wordsearch



Men of the New Testament

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ANDREW	LUKE
APOLLOS	MARK
AQUILA	MATTHEW
BARNABAS	ONESIMUS
BARTHOLOMEW	PAUL
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DEMAS	PHILEMON
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Notes from a Reader.

Part of my faith's daily discipline is to read a chapter of the Bible each night. The other week I was reading Acts 8 and came to the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch was travelling home in his chariot reading the scriptures when Philip came up to him and asked if he understood what he was reading, to which the eunuch replied, how could he understand unless someone explained it to him.

This reminded me of a train journey almost 60 year ago. I used to travel by train from where we lived in Somerset to visit my Grandparents in Pontefract. For a 12-year-old boy the journey soon became boring. So to pass the time on one journey I decided to try train spotting, so armed with a notebook, pencil and the train spotter's book of train numbers. I boarded the train at Taunton to start my journey and grabbed the window seat so I could take down the train numbers.

When the train reached Bristol an 'old lady' got on and sat next to me. I didn't take much notice of her, and I carried on writing down the numbers in my notebook. As we started to leave the station she asked me was interested in trains and did I know the difference between that 'Pacific' Class engine over there and the 'Duchess' Class engine behind it. This threw me, and I said, "Well, not really, as I had only just started train spotting".

She then told me that during the war she had worked in the engine sheds in Bristol. And for the rest of the journey to Pontefract she helped me collect the engine numbers and explained to me all about the different types of trains and pointed them out to me. By the time the train reached Pontefract, I knew why some trains were classed 2-4-2 and others 4-6-2, why some only pulled freight and others pulled passengers. On that rail journey the 'old lady' by explaining to me how the trains worked and the differences between the different types and classes she had, kindled within me a love of steam trains that I still have today.

There are times when we all need guidance and help in understanding things. In my case, as a 12-year-old boy, it was trains and in later life it became various books of the Bible; and like the Ethiopian eunuch I needed someone to explain the meaning of the various tricky passages. The Ethiopian eunuch

in Acts 8 was struggling with this passage from Isaiah 53.7-8

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

He was having difficulties in understanding the passage he was reading. So much so, that by reading it aloud, he was hoping that by hearing the words as well as speaking them he may be able to make some sense out of it. We know that this passage he is reading is talking about Jesus and his trial and execution, yet the eunuch, who would probably have been in Jerusalem throughout the trial and execution of Jesus could not see the connection. Now the eunuch was an intelligent man but he couldn't fathom it out and it took a complete stranger, Philip, to point him in the right direction and explain the meaning.

Now for those of us who have grown up in the faith and attended church regularly, a passage like this from Isaiah is relatively easy to understand. But for someone, who is new to the faith and doesn't have the same in depth faith based background as we have, they would have difficulties understanding this passage with all its allegories.

I think that one of the problems that the eunuch had in trying to understand the passages he was reading, was his vision of the Messiah. He had the typical Jewish picture in his mind of a strong warrior King similar to David and the picture of the suffering servant or a lamb did not fit. Now there are a lot of passages in both the Old and New Testaments which throw up doubts and queries in our minds when we read them, and when they do, we are at odds to explain them. We find them in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Job. There are also tricky passages in the Gospels especially in John, Romans, in some of the Pauline Letters, but most of all in Revelations. When you come to one of these passages do not ignore them, spend some time thinking and praying about them and discuss them with a partner or a friend. If you still have problems then see one of the Clergy or Readers and talk it through.

We all need guides at some time or other in our spiritual lives and if we are

experiencing difficulties when we read our Bibles, a good commentary is always a good place to start. If we don't find the answers there then we should turn to the Clergy and Readers for our help, for a good knowledge of Scripture will deepen our faith.

Your Brother in Christ

David

Social Media

I've created a new email address specifically for people to send things to be posted on the social media. It is

stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com.

Jonathan Harris
01977 707056

If you have a contribution for the Parish Magazine, whether it be a photograph, a notice, a report or a reminisce, please just write it down and hand it to Stuart or Bruce, or email it to **both**

brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com

in case one or other is on holiday etc. **Last date** for items for August's magazine is **Sunday July 18th**.

This is a strict deadline for all submissions. Anything received after this date will appear in September's magazine.

Year's mind. We give thanks for the lives of:- :- **July 3** Janet Cutting, **9** Frederick Legay Murray, **10** Gladys Walker, **14** Margaret Illidge, Ann Taylor, **19** Stan Mann, **24** Robert (Bob) Grice **25** Bob Grice; **28** Clifford Bratt.

*Commemorations begin on the Sunday **before** the date given or on the date if this is a Sunday. If you would like to add a name to the Years' Mind List please write it in the diary in Reception or e-mail to Vivienne using -*

stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Rota of Sidespersons

	Warden					
1	Barbara Sessford	Janet Colvill	Margaret Hopwood	Maureen Milnes	Betty Carter	
2	Peter Lavine	Bill Bradley	Peter Spurr	Geoff Walsh	Linda Atkins	Barbara Lavine
3	Jill Clapham	Ian Knox	Barbara Chessman	Ian Wood	Margaret Coverdale	
4	Pam Mercer	Ann Grice	Sandra Barker	John Barber	Vicki Chappell	Gavin Thorpe

Date	Service	Warden	Crucifer	Acolyte	Acolyte	Thurifer
05/07/20 4th Trinity	10.00 am. Eucharist	<p>During the Covid 19 lockdown our Eucharist can be seen on Facebook at 10.00 a.m. every Sunday and a service sheet for the service can be downloaded on the Church website.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/ http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/</p> <p>A said mass is also streamed on Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m.</p>				
12/07/20 5th Trinity	10.00 am. Eucharist					
19/07/20 6th Trinity	10.00 am. Eucharist					
26/07/20 7th Trinity	10.00 am. Eucharist					
Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings	
05/07/20 4th Trinity	<p>Here are the readings for the Sunday services in June</p>				Romans 7.15-25a Matthew 11.16-19,25-	
12/07/20 5th Trinity					Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 13.1-9,18-23	
19/07/20 6th Trinity					Romans 8.12-25 Matthew 13.24-30,36-43	
26/07/20 7th Trinity					Romans 8.26-end Matthew 13.31-33,44-52	

PLEASE NOTE

During the enforced closure due to Covid 19 restrictions, the service on Sunday morning is live on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/> where the service commences at 10:00 a.m. NOT 10:15.

THE BENEFICE OF PONTEFRACT

St. Giles with St. Mary

St Giles' Church, Market Place, Pontefract
St Mary's Church, The Circle, Chequerfield

Tel: 01977 790448

Canon June Lawson
Fr Michael Taylor
Fr Rod Walker
Fr Mark Watkins

Tel: 01977 706803
Tel: 01977 702824
Tel: 07746980727
Tel: 01977 600207

Sunday Services

8.00am Said Mass at St Giles'. (First Sunday in the month only)
 9.00am St Mary's 1st & 3rd Week - Mass with hymns, 2nd & 4th - Morning Worship with hymns
 10.15am Parish Mass at St Giles'

Mass at St Giles' on weekdays - Wednesdays at 9.30am; Fridays at 12.00pm

Morning Prayers at St Giles': Tuesdays to Saturdays at 8.30am

Evensong 1st Sunday (Not August)

Baptisms, Weddings, Banns Call in at St Giles' Church on Saturdays from 10:30am—11:30am

Please check the calendar on St Giles' website or the Order of Service for any alterations.

Lay Reader

Mr David Brooks 798599

PCC Vice Chairman

T.B.A.

Churchwardens

Jill Clapham 798649
 Barbara Sessford 699058
 Peter Lavine 799929
 Pam Mercer 795130

PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator

Mrs Vivienne Smales 790448
 stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

PCC Treasurer

Mr David Leigh 706526

Organist and Choir Director

Mr James MacDonald 790448

Tower Captain

Adrian Garner 690154

Parish Magazine Editor

Mr B Dalgleish 690216

St Giles' Altar Flowers

Mrs Barbara Chessman 700559

Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary

Mrs J Colvill/Mrs M Laidlaw 704864/795748

Children's Society Box Secretary

Mrs Angela Bradley 613643

Missions Committee Secretary

Mrs Edith Barber 277226

Pro-Wardens at St Mary's

Mr Frank Ward

St Mary's Church Secretary

Ann Harris 707056

St Mary's Church Treasurer

Miss Delia Perrett 796223
 Mr David Leigh 706526

St Mary's Church Meeting Chair

Mr David Brooks 798599

St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Mrs Denis Pallett 705341

St Giles' Church School (aided)

Head teacher: Mr Richard Grace 794175

St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Mr Andy Weston 07791 656820

St Giles' Tiddlywinks (pre school)

Barbara Lavine 799929

Caption Competition

Any ideas?

Suggestions to

stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com



St Giles' Guide Book



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