



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

**Public Services this week will be additionally live streamed on [Facebook](#)
Sunday 19th and Sunday 26th at 10.15am, Wednesday 22nd at 9.30am.**

SUNDAY, 19TH JULY 2020

Canon June writes...

So here we go: on Sunday we open up our building for public worship, our last Sunday worshipping in the buildings of St Giles and in St Mary's Community Centre was Lent 3. I remember well, as you will, the sadness of not being able to celebrate Mothering Sunday (Lent 4) together in our buildings. Our closure was sudden and swift, I have to say an awful lot easier, practically speaking, than the process of opening up. The days, weeks and months of lockdown, along with the recent gradual re-opening of public spaces has been not without its challenges for many. Each of us has our own story of lockdown - our gospel reading today reminds us of how wheat and weeds grow together in life's field. There will be things that we have come to value afresh (wheat) and things that we will be happy to lose (weeds).

We have all missed seeing in 'the flesh' the significant people in our lives: our families, our friends, our work colleagues, our church family. To see my son and grandson last week for the first time in months was a great joy, and John and I are looking forward to seeing our daughter and son in law during this week. My mum is in a care home in Lancashire and apart from being given special permission to take her home for a brief visit the other week, our contact through these long months has been solely by facetime.

For some members of our community at St Giles with St Mary's, the death of a loved one during COVID-19 has sharpened the grief and sadness of bereavement. As a worshipping community, we have met 'virtually' together as we have been able, but not all have been able to come together in that way and we have missed them. Our inability to gather together in our church as members of the various groups and activities that make up the weekly church community has been a loss to us in various ways.

Beyond us, many businesses in our town will have suffered significant loss of income, and some may not survive the closure of their business through the months of lockdown: that brings a particular burden of worry to owners and to employees who might lose their livelihood. Charities (including ourselves!) have lost income and will be concerned that their future work may suffer as a result. Community activities are seeking new ways of working when social distancing and strict hygiene procedures make the old ways more difficult to resume.

We still have many varied challenges ahead as we tentatively find ways to steadily re-open our church building for worship, for fellowship and for community activity. Challenges often present opportunities and so we must keep our eyes open for what might emerge in the midst of the 'new normal'. God's church has proven its resilience through history, precisely because it is God's church and not ours. Let us pray daily for God's guidance:

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. — St. Benedict

Canon June

THIS WEEK THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SERVICES ON
SUNDAY, 19TH JULY: 10.15AM—PARISH EUCHARIST
WEDNESDAY, 22ND JULY: 9.30AM—WEEKDAY MASS
SUNDAY, 26TH JULY: 10.15AM PARISH EUCHARIST

Wednesday Mass, resuming on 22nd July, will allow our more clinically vulnerable parishioners to join in worship where numbers will be lower.

Church will only be open 20 minutes prior to the service time.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

It is wonderful to be back together in our much-loved building to share together in worship and prayer. BUT....

We need to keep ourselves and each other safe as we gather together in this building in which prayer has been offered for many centuries. Please read the guidance below and follow any signs, notices and instructions given by the clergy, wardens and other stewards and helpers.

TEST AND TRACE - A warden will tick off your name on the electoral roll if you are present for Sunday or Wednesday services. New people will be asked to fill in a simple form. This is so that we can support the Government's Test and Trace program. These records are for all our safety and will be destroyed after 21 days and will not be used for any other purpose.

HAND HYGIENE -You will be asked to cleanse your hands on entry and exit from the building. Please try not to touch anything that you do not need to touch including other people who are not part of your 'household bubble'.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - Please follow the current social distancing guidance. Please go straight to your seat as guided by the stewards and remain there until the end of the service, other than when you go forward to receive during Communion.

FACE MASKS - In the light of recent government guidance about wearing face masks in public places that are more enclosed, we would advise you please to wear a face mask for public worship. We will review this as we see how things bed out in terms of attendance at services, but please try to comply if you are able. Government advice is that children under 11 do not need to wear a mask.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS - Social distancing dictates that individuals will need to be allocated seats that will maintain the current requirements, but family and / or Household units may sit together on one line of seats if they wish to do so. Please do not move any chairs from where they have been placed!

SERVICE SHEETS – These will be fresh for each service. They may be taken home, or placed in the recycle box as you leave the building.

MUSIC, SINGING AND RESPONSES - Sadly, for now, there can be no community singing of hymns or responses like the Gloria and Sanctus. There may be one 'Cantor' appointed in a service to sing part of the service but otherwise all responses will be said using a **quiet** voice.

SOCIAL INTERACTION AND THE PEACE - Social interaction needs to happen whilst maintaining social distancing, so please only share the Peace by means of a smile and a suitable gesture rather than the traditional handshake or hug!

RECEIVING COMMUNION - Communion will be only in 'one kind' only (the bread). Please remain in your seat until directed to go forward by a steward. Hygiene precautions will be used during distribution. 'The body of Christ' will be spoken by the priest at the altar, with the congregation all replying 'Amen.' This means that the 'distribution' will be in silence and the bread only placed on the hands and not the tongue. If you do not wish to receive, please remain in your seat to pray the prayer of spiritual communion. Blessings will not involve the laying on of hands on the head or audible words.

AT THE END OF THE SERVICE - Please remain in your seat until a steward asks you to leave, and then please go directly to the designated exit as guided by them. Please do any 'catching up' outside the building and mindful of social distancing.

FOOD AND DRINK - There will be no refreshments available after the service.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES - this will not be possible before or during the Service, but once the area is empty after the service has ended, stewards will assist a safe flow of people.

CONVERSATIONS WITH CLERGY - Unfortunately in order to maintain good hygiene and reduce risks of transmission of virus, Clergy will not be able to greet and say goodbye in the usual manner, but are available at other times - see notice sheets / website for contact details.

TOILETS - Toilet facilities are available, but only one person will be able to enter the toilet area at a time to ensure social distancing.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS - Cash offerings whether loose cash or in envelopes should be placed by you onto the plate near the exit door. There will be no offertory during the service. We would urge you to speak with the treasurer about changing your giving to direct debit, via your banking account, if that is possible for you.

NUMBERS - If we reach maximum numbers, we will have to refuse admission.

CAN YOU HELP?



Can you help us to keep the church open for private prayer? We need people who are under 70, in good physical health and do not fall into [clinically vulnerable groups](#) (please follow the blue link to read the guidance) to enable us to open church from 10.30am—12.00pm on Wednesdays and 11.00am to 1.00pm on Fridays. If you can help, please contact Barbara Sessford on 07786 922349, 01977 699058 or by email at sessford92@gmail.com

Also, if you are able to help with **sidespersons duties** on Sundays when we are able to resume public worship, are fit and healthy, generally under 70 and not in a [clinically vulnerable group](#) please contact a Warden. You would be required to come a little earlier in order to be confident in these duties.

THE CHURCH WILL OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES ON

WEDNESDAY, 22ND JULY: 10.30AM—12.00PM

FRIDAY, 24TH JULY: 11.00AM—1.00PM

WHEN ATTENDING THE CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER, WE WOULD ASK YOU TO NOTE AND ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES, WHICH ARE 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 chairs provided.
- Follow the one-way system

Thank you for your cooperation.



DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE TO CONTINUE BEYOND LOCKDOWN – AS CALLS PASS TWO MILLION MINUTES.

A free phone line offering hymns, prayers, and reflections to tens of thousands of callers after church buildings closed because of the coronavirus is to continue despite moves to ease the lockdown restrictions.

[Daily Hope](#), launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in April, has now received 173,000 calls from over 37,000 people – with calls topping more than two million minutes.

The service – which is available **24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044** – was set up as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes, especially older people and anyone unable to join online church services.

Stories sent to the Archbishop from across the country share how the service has brought comfort and support during these difficult times. Many who wrote in said they had recommended the line to others. The service, set up by the Church of England nationally, has also been supported by Connections based at [Holy Trinity Claygate](#) in Surrey and the Christian charity [Faith in Later Life](#).

Archbishop Justin said: "Daily Hope has been a lifeline for tens of thousands of people in the last few months.

"We've heard stories of people using it who are regular church attenders and those who aren't. That's a testimony to the vital importance of Daily Hope.

"I have been praying for those who have used the phone line, and written to us, that God would bring them comfort, not just at this time but in the weeks and months which follow.

"The Church will continue to look to serve older people, and those who can't easily get out to a church building. I look forward to seeing how Daily Hope can go from strength to strength as lockdown restrictions are eased."

Callers to the line are welcomed with a short new greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

New material to the service continues to be updated, including mental health reflections voiced by Pam Rhodes which started this week and plans for holiday at home material in August as well as prayers from the Mothers Union on option eight.

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as [Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer](#) updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England [weekly national online service](#).

A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE phone line menu options

Press * to listen to Archbishop Justin Welby's message.

Press 1 to listen to 'Hymns we Love' (this is a series of short talks based on well-loved hymns) .

Press 2 to listen to our Hymn Line (these are recordings of different hymns on a daily loop).

Press 3 to listen to our Prayer Line (prayers that are specific and relevant to the Coronavirus crisis).

Otherwise, please **press 4** for more options .

Press 5 to listen to the Church of England's weekly service.

Press 6 to join in with traditional morning and evening prayers.

Press 7 to listen to the latest Government advice on the Coronavirus.

Press 0 to return to the main menu.

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday, 19th <i>6th Sunday after Trinity</i>	Morning:	Psalm 71 & 1 Peter 3.8-18
	Evening:	Psalm 67 & Acts 4.1-22
Monday, 20th	Morning:	Psalm 126 & Luke 20.41-21.4
	Evening:	Psalm 127 & 2 Corinthians 6.1-7.1
Tuesday, 21st <i>1st EP of Mary Magdalene</i>	Morning:	Psalm 132 & Luke 21.5-19
	Evening:	Psalm 139 & 2 Corinthians 1.3-7
Wednesday, 22nd <i>Mary Magdalene</i>	Morning:	Psalms 31,32,150 & Luke 8.1-3
	Evening:	Psalm 63 & Mark 15.40-16.7
Thursday, 23rd	Morning:	Psalm 143 & Luke 21.29 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 138 & 2 Corinthians 8.16-9.5
Friday, 24th <i>1st EP of James the Apostle</i>	Morning:	Psalm 144 & Luke 22.1-13
	Evening:	Psalm 144 & Mark 5.21 to end
Saturday, 25th <i>James the Apostle</i>	Morning:	Psalm 7, 29, 117 & Luke 9.46-56
	Evening:	Psalm 94 & Mark 1.14-20



BISHOP NICK HAS WRITTEN A LETTER OF THANKS and encouragement to all worshippers in our diocese for being the Body of Christ in the wider world throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

He has also filmed an accompanying video which can be viewed here <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/video/bishop-nicks-message-diocese>

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are living through challenging and extraordinary times. The church, committed to the real world and the communities in which we are set, has continued to worship and serve despite the restrictions. Given the nature of the virus, it will be some time before we emerge into something resembling 'normality'. We have to be clear and honest about that.

Thank you for the remarkable ways you have continued to be the church ... in the world ... even if the buildings had to be closed for a long time. I want to say one or two things to encourage you, building on material you might have seen on the diocesan website or had passed to you from letters I have written to the clergy.

Inhabiting the Scriptures—Lockdown and our attempts to innovate ways of worshipping together have been experienced by many as a sort of 'exile'. In the Old Testament prophets (such as Isaiah) we see people exiled to a strange land where nothing is familiar. All that shaped their life and worship had been stripped away. They lamented the loss of their familiar life (and what this said about God and them); they tried to come to terms with the present realities; and they then began to look forward to shaping a different future.

This time in our life enables us to re-read the biblical experience afresh – so much of the Bible was written by and for people whose normality was uncertainty and fragility. This also accords with the daily experience of most Christians around the world, including those in our link dioceses in Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania and Pakistan. Let's not waste the opportunity to learn anew how to live with uncertainty, aware of our own limitations and fragility.

Being the church—The Church of England has a unique vocation in and for England: we are committed to particular places. We are called to pray for those in our parishes, to be the answer to our prayers when appropriate, to love and serve those in need, to care for the sick and to support those who mourn, and reach out with the good news of God's grace. We have been doing all this – and will continue to do so into the future. We know we are not always strong, but God is and we trust in him ... whatever comes our way.

Emergence—We don't know what the future church might look like in every place, but we do have a role in shaping it. There will be things we need to let go of and new ways of being that are being discovered or yet to be discovered. We will emerge at different paces over the coming months and care needs to be taken over how and when we open our buildings and hold onto the new forms we have learned recently. Church House is providing detailed and digested guidance at every step, but your archdeacon and area bishop are there to be consulted for any support as we move forward.

Encouragement and challenge—I mainly want to thank and encourage you. We will face big questions – nationally as well as in our diocese – about finance and buildings, threats and opportunities. But, as a diocese we are confident and well set up to face these. Indeed, we have been doing just this since our creation in April 2014; so, this isn't a new challenge. You can be confident that we will deal with the challenges of the months ahead with confidence in God, confidence in the Gospel, confidence in our clergy and lay leaders, confidence in our unique vocation as a church to worship and serve God together.

So, be encouraged. Use the resources available to you in the diocese and parish. Pray simply and hopefully, knowing that God is never surprised.

And please be assured of the prayers of your bishops and archdeacons, the deans and area deans, our lay staff at Church House and all who are committed to you. May God bless you in all you are and do. I look forward to the time when we can be together again, physically and in person.

In Christ.

Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds

PRAYER LIST



As is our practice, the prayer list is renewed on a regular basis. All names, including those recently added, will be removed from the prayer list for Sunday 2nd August, and the list will be restarted. If you wish any name to remain on the prayer list then please do so: by emailing Stuart Lonsdale on stgmnotices@gmx.com or by leaving a message on the church phone (01977 790448). Please note that under GDPR regulations, full names can no longer be used in the 'Prayer List' unless the person concerned has given permission for their name to be used. Could you please indicate if permission has been given.

This does not, in any way, affect the Years Mind list.

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



ST GILES' FOOD SHARE—SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2020 PROJECT



We are planning a Food Share Project to help families during this year's school summer holidays, based on a home delivery model. We are receiving generous support from FareShare Yorkshire, Morrisons Supermarket, WDH and Wakefield Council. If any car drivers in the congregation could give time to help with deliveries, please contact us. The time commitment can be as little as you wish. Please see the item in the [July Parish Magazine](#) for more information or phone us on 01977 707056. Paul and Ann Harris

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](#).

Additional Prayer Books. 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](#).

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](#).

ST GILES' CHURCH - REGULAR GIVING

It is now over four 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.

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.

If you would like to change your method of giving from envelope to electronic means, 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

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

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>

The e-magazine for July 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.

[July Parish Magazine](#)

Stuart and Bruce would very much welcome any contributions for the August magazine, particularly any lockdown experiences that you would like to share. Please send any contributions to the email addresses below.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Wednesday, 22nd July: Deadline for Notices. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Wednesday, 22nd July: Deadline for August's Parish Magazine.

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