

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles with St Mary*

*Faith
Honesty
Trust*

August 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.

For up to date information about the progress we are making, make sure you download the weekly notice sheet from the website -

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/weekly-notice-2/>

Hopefully as matters improve we can return, next month, to a printed copy of the magazine.

God bless and keep you all safe.

The Editorial team

PARISH OF PONTEFRACT

St Giles' with St Mary

A letter from Fr Michael

Life around us has changed. Changed in such a way that nobody could have envisaged.

I was listening to a discussion on the radio a few weeks ago.

The presenter made a comment, "It's getting a bit biblical out there," and to be honest it restored a little faith insofar as the Bible was mentioned!

The term "Plague" occurs about 100 times in the Bible, and there are 10 plagues associated with Egypt, all mentioned in the Book of Exodus:-

The Plague of Blood

The Plague of Frogs

The Plague of Gnats

The Plague of Flies

The Plague on Livestock

The Plague of Boils

The Plague of Hail

The Plague of Locusts

The Plague of Darkness

The Plague on the Firstborn

Normally when I write something for the magazine I try to add humour. From the list above it's hardly funny! Even our own country has been smitten over months, and I mean before the virus hit us.

We've had water, and lack of it, and this virus.

I said right at the outset, things have changed, albeit temporarily, although some changes will stay I am sure.

Our reliance upon others, and dependence of others on you and me is quite noticeable. Because of the lockdown and exercise, talking to neighbours and people who we usually see drive past is amazing and indeed good. It brings a community closer together.

As things begin to ease, there are more cars about so the interaction weakens. This is a shame.

As in cases of the difficulties we are encountering, our reliance on God comes to the fore for some people; for others it is the concentration of our prayer life that is paramount.

Some of us have been locked away. Locked away with God. There can be no one better. As we emerge let us give thanks for what for what we have already received and implore Him to bring us out completely.

I mentioned humour at the outset; well I wouldn't like to disappoint.

“ My ancestors wandered lost in the wilderness for forty years, because even in biblical times men would not stop to ask for directions.”Bum Bum

Stay safe, say your prayers and look forward.

God Bless

Fr Michael



**Wakefield
District**

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

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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.

A message from the Archbishop

The new Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, writing in the Yorkshire Post encouraging us to work on a big canvas of inclusion, welcome, hospitality and diversity.



“Please can we not go back to normal.

I know many commentators have said similar things, but as I begin my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York and receive the baton from my dear brother Sentamu, and begin to think about the challenges we face, I do believe that despite the horrors and sufferings of the coronavirus pandemic and all the heartache we have experienced, there is an opportunity for us to think deeply about what kind of world we want to be. And I do mean world: not continent; not nation, not region not even county, but world. COVID-19 is a global pandemic. It spread quickly through a world that moves quickly. It shows us how connected we are. It also shows how the poor and the excluded suffer most.

When we find a vaccine, or even a cure, then that will, of course, be shared with the world. It will enable us to move on, but with our new sense of interconnectedness, there is also the opportunity for us to face other ills that have endured for much longer and may actually be even harder to eliminate. I'm thinking of prejudice and intolerance and the hatred and division it breeds. The Black Lives Matter Movement has alerted us to the terrible pandemic of racism. It is a different sort of virus. It attacks the heart, not the lungs. It requires a medicine that we have to find within ourselves and administer to ourselves. We also have to find the humility of allowing others to show us that we might be ill without fully realising it.

As a Christian, my understanding of our responsibilities to each other as the

human family come from my faith in Christ who by teaching us that God is Father also taught us that regardless of ethnicity, colour, class or background we are sisters and brothers. In a caste ridden, patriarchal society that was a very radical thing to say 2,000 years ago. Sadly, it is just as radical today. But in challenging us to look at each other differently and treat each other as sisters and brothers, and even organise the world as if it were a household where we belong to each other and care about each other's needs, we can begin to see what the medicine might look like.

Jesus put it very simply: he said love your neighbour as yourself. Please note, he didn't say love everyone. The two aren't quite the same. Loving everyone, in a kind of general, abstract way that never demands any particular action, is comparatively easy. Loving your neighbour, that very particular someone who is next to you right now, is much more challenging. And much more real.

What does this mean for Yorkshire? How can we be part of the world's solution and how can we take hold of this expansive vision that we are one humanity inhabiting one world, and what will be the distinctive features of the Yorkshire branch of this family?

Some years ago I was driving between, I think Bradford and Halifax, and the person with me explained something of the geology of our county, pointing out that this road followed the geological demarcation line between millstone grit to the south and limestone to the north, and this was why the landscape itself, what it looked like, how it felt and what grew there, was so different. Perhaps readers of the Yorkshire Post can help me out by telling me exactly which road this is. My google search was unsuccessful.

The French have a name for this sort of thing: we don't really have an equivalent in English: it is terroir. It is particularly used in relation to vines. A particular soil on a particular sort of rock in a particular climate and on a particular side of the hill produces a grape which is distinctively different from its neighbour only a matter of miles away. The earth beneath us and the environment in which we grow, shapes us.

So what is it about Yorkshire - millstone grit, limestone and, to the east, sandstone and mudstone - that together produce the people and culture who live here?

What I observed from my years living in Huddersfield, and again on my recent return, is astonishingly beautiful and challenging diversity: the fertile lands in the east; the beautiful coast; the caves, gorges, chasms and waterfalls in the dales; the bleak austerity of the moors - the different industries that have developed here; the different cultures they have nourished.

So, for my final bit of inspiration, let me turn to a particular feature: the dry stone walls that criss-cross the limestone landscape of the Yorkshire Dales. Only the other year when I was staying at Scargill House in Wharfedale a person who made and repaired these walls told me that the art of dry stone walling requires you never to put a piece of stone down once you have picked it up. Rather than looking at the gap in the wall and then trying out one bit of stone after another to see which one fits (this really would waste energy) the drystone-waller walks across the whole canvas of the wall and once having picked a stone up looks for the place where it belongs.

Might this be a picture of the Yorkshire we want to become? One where everyone has a place. One where no one is discarded or put down. One where we work on a big canvas of inclusion, welcome, hospitality and diversity. The Church of England and other Christian denominations and faiths stand ready to be part of this as we discover a new normal where we are more caring of each other and more determined to live peaceably on the earth.

You've welcomed back to Yorkshire an archbishop from Essex. Thank you. I'm very grateful. It feels like a good start."

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.

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- 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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E careline@hc-one.co.uk
A Ladybalk Lane, Pontefract,
West Yorkshire, WF8 1JQ

Canon June writes..

I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it was to see many of you back in church on Sunday 19th and Wednesday 22nd July. A lump appeared in my throat as I rang the bell for Sunday at 10.15am, the first time since the middle of March with members of our church present in body. And how equally special to have our folks who are worshipping at home, alongside us in both services. Thank you for helping us to work in the constrained ways that we need to, in order to fulfil the directives that we are given around opening up our building for public worship and private prayer.

The quietness around the beginning of our worship is quite special as we wait prayerfully together to meet with our Lord in word and sacrament. And though, as yet, we can't involve others in the worship in the way we are used to (our readers, intercessors, choir and sacristy team), it was a delight to hear our organ played again by James and prior to that for Adrian to ring the bell calling us to Mass. Of course, we await the joy of a peal of bells, the singing of hymns and anthems, the sharing of the peace and the fellowship over coffee and cake that ends our worship. We will get there!

We are aware that the government directive still recommends that the over 70's or those in vulnerable or shielding categories remain at home as much as possible. We know that each of you weigh up that risk for yourselves. We will love to see you when the time is right for you. But we continue to ask that you look in terms of one mass a week, at the moment, so allowing Wednesday to be a time for those who feel more confident venturing out into a smaller arena of people. I hope that we will be able to maintain a single Sunday service together, but as numbers take us closer to capacity then we may need to revise our timings.

These days that we live in are still unsettling to us all. The familiar has been disrupted and it can feel hard to be asked to live or act in ways that 'distance' us from each other, especially as we wear masks and respect social distancing.

As we continue to live amidst unsettledness and uncertainty, some words from St Teresa of Avila might be as spiritual treasure and solace to us:

'Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you. All things are passing, God is unchanging. Patience gains all; nothing is lacking to those who have God: God alone is sufficient.'

Keep faithful in prayer, the reading of the scriptures and making communion in person or through the act of spiritual communion. Through such spiritual disciplines we will find the truth of what St Teresa puts before us.

Blessings to you

Canon June

Missions Committee

Lent Appeal

This year's appeal was to raise funds for

The Mission to Seafarers.

Due to lockdown the appeal was cut short by three weeks. However, we still managed to collect £140.00 and the Missions Committee contributed a further £100.00.

A cheque for £240.00 has been sent.

This was an unusual year and the committee would like to thank all those who contributed.

Edie Barber



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.

It makes you think.

I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

Michael Jordan (American Basketball Legend)

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me.

Erma Bombeck (American Humourist 1927-1996)

A Stitch in Time



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Lockdown



Unable to enjoy my evening outings I watched more TV. I can't just sit and watch, so I ate, drankand knitted. I completed my challenge to knit nine dollies, and raised £550 for St. John's Ambulance. This is one of my favourites, on its way to Father Roland's daughter-in-law who is a midwife.

Stay safe,

Joyce.

Children's Wordsearch

B	E	L	A	C	A	I	N	A	A	M	A	N	E	R
E	Z	E	L	I	A	S	D	A	N	I	E	L	L	E
N	E	I	E	R	Q	H	E	V	L	H	I	O	I	H
J	K	N	Z	S	A	M	U	E	L	S	S	T	J	O
A	I	H	A	G	G	A	I	P	H	A	E	Y	A	B
M	E	T	H	U	S	E	L	A	H	O	T	S	H	O
I	L	O	V	E	P	L	A	B	A	J	H	W	D	A
N	K	B	L	N	E	Q	J	E	H	O	A	J	I	M
A	M	E	N	O	M	O	L	O	S	N	S	M	V	A
M	B	D	J	R	N	D	S	E	S	A	A	H	A	N
A	P	H	S	A	S	G	A	E	W	H	M	A	D	A
H	Y	C	T	A	C	I	S	A	A	C	U	I	U	S
A	S	H	E	R	U	O	P	R	H	O	G	A	H	S
O	A	K	V	Q	M	L	B	C	A	N	Z	S	E	E
N	E	H	E	M	I	A	H	E	Z	E	K	I	A	H

Men of the Old Testament

AARON	EHUD	ISAAC	MOSES
ABEL	ELI	ISAIAH	NAAMAN
ABRAHAM	ELIAS	ISHMAEL	NEHEMIAH
ADAM	ELIJAH	JACOB	NOAH
AHAZ	ELISHA	JOASH	OBED
ASA	ENOC	JOEL	OTHNIEL
ASHER	ESAU	JONAH	REHOBOAM
BENJAMIN	EZEKIEL	JONATHAN	SAMUEL
CAIN	HAGGAI	JOSHUA	SAUL
CALEB	HAMAN	LOT	SETH
DANIEL	HEZEKIAH	MANASSEH	SOLOMON
DAVID	HOSEA	METHUSELAH	

Carleton Theatre Group

If anyone wishes to join us, with a view to considering acting or helping backstage, etc, please phone

Ruth Connor on 01977 792100, or
Brenda Smith (01977 700052).

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

Bill Bradley e mail W.R.T.Bradley@btinternet.com



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Food Share Summer Holidays 2020



Work is well underway to deliver our Food Share Project. A large delivery was made to Cherry Tree Academy and was received with lots of thanks from school staff. We have invited families from School to contact us if they need further help during the holidays.

Two large pallets of Food have been delivered to Project HQ from the FareShare Barnsley depot. FareShare received a large government grant recently to organise extra resourcing of food from the big national supermarket chains. More deliveries will be made during the holidays.

FareShare is certainly fulfilling its aims of giving great food to good causes and in limiting food waste here in Pontefract. Wakefield Council's generous subscription to FareShare has enabled St Giles' to obtain these stocks.

A team of 5 drivers has been recruited and food deliveries to families will have started by the time this edition of the magazine is published.

The Project so far?

It has been sad not to be able to invite volunteers to join us in unloading, checking and packing food. However, we felt the only way the Project could be Covid secure was to limit access to HQ to the 2 of us (from one household). However, it has been a real boost while we have been working alone at HQ to get so much support from Chequerfield people for what St Giles' is trying to achieve through the Project for local people.

Ann and Paul Harris



Services at St Giles'

As services re-commence at St Giles' the service sheet every Sunday contains the following advice which hopefully will reassure you if you are hoping to return soon.

We continue to pray for all who are yet to feel able to join us physically, all affected by Covid-19, all working to relieve the suffering of others, all who are unwell, concerned, afraid or alone, all baptism families and wedding couples who have been forced to delay these important occasions, and all awaiting ordination in our diocese.

Please comply with the following to ensure a safer environment for everyone.

- In the light of recent government guidance and guidance from the Church of England, we strongly advise you to wear a face mask in church. Exemptions include - young children under the age of 11, people advised medically not to do so, people with a disability that makes the handling of masks difficult, those for whom it would cause mental distress.
- Please help to keep a period of quiet reflection before our worship begins.
- RECORDS of all attending services are kept for track and trace purposes - these are kept securely and destroyed after 21 days
- Please respect DISTANCING, and do not gather together anywhere indoors before or after the service. Household 'bubbles' may sit together, as directed by the sides-people.
- SINGING, is not currently permitted, except by a single cantor when possible. Recorded music can be used.
- Please do not raise your voice when making the responses
- We remain seated to share the PEACE verbally only.
- WAFERS will be covered and will not be touched before you receive them. The wafer which is handled and consumed by the Priest is kept separate. The CHALICE will not be shared (the priest will consecrate and consume the wine, maintaining the validity of the Eucharistic celebration) - receiving in one kind only, we receive the fullness of Christ's blessing in Holy Communion.

- When it is time to receive HOLY COMMUNION, please allow the sides-people to direct you when to move. Sanitise your hands as directed. When you reach the priest, please stretch out your hands and the bread will be placed into them. The priest will wear a face-covering.
- You will need to sanitise your hands (top of middle aisle) before moving down the aisle to receive communion and ahead of touching/removing your mask to receive the bread.
- Communion can be brought to you in your seat if you're unable to come forward, please let the wardens know, and sit near an aisle.
- BLESSINGS will not involve the laying on of hands (ie the priest will not touch the head of the person receiving the blessing).
- A TOILET is available, but please avoid any queueing inside the toilet area.
- Please take this BOOKLET with you and recycle it
- Please leave your COLLECTION in the plate near to the exit.. No offertory will be presented.
- Candles can be lit after the service as directed by a sides-person

Thank you for bearing with these precautions, which may change...

Year's Mind List

In September and October 2019 the Year's Mind List was reviewed, in the hope that it could be made more relevant to worshippers at the Church, prior to the All Souls service of remembrance.

To facilitate this a copy of the list was made available in both St Giles' and St Mary's for parishioners to confirm the entries and an explanation of the process was put in the service sheets for both churches over the five weeks the list was there.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to our attention that notice of this was not included in the magazine, which has meant that anyone for whom this is their only contact with the church, was unaware of this review.

Any further additions to the list can be made by contacting the Church Administrator (stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com) (01977 790448)

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News from the PCC July 2020.....

Correspondence received

Fr Michael, soon to reach a significant age, changes his designation from 'Assistant Curate' to now having a license to officiate (PTO) in the diocese. This is a legal requirement from the Bishop's Office. Fr Michael will be now be listed as an 'honorary priest' on our clergy details. This does not affect his capacity to take services at St Giles or St Mary's.

We have sent out Bishop Nick's 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. If you missed it, Follow the link [here](#) to read his letter and watch the video.

Heritage Open Days

It is hoped that as part of the forthcoming heritage days (to be experienced virtually) Bruce Dagleish will make a video about St Giles' Church, Pontefract, as our contribution to this year's Heritage Open Days.

Safeguarding report

Karen MacDonald was duly appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer by the PCC in resolution 3 of the update to PCC dated 12 May 2020. Karen has been given details of the Safeguarding training offered by the Diocese of Leeds. She will be undertaking Levels One and Two which are completed online. Level 3 training is normally a delivered workshop undertaken through the Diocese. Currently awaiting further guidance on this. The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and accepted by the PCC in the May update.

Risk Assessment v.5

The Standing Committee have continued to meet very regularly using Zoom. The amount of guidance and legal documentation needing to be read and digested from the government, national church and diocese is extensive and not always clear! In the light of what is received, the standing committee update our risk assessment as necessary.

This task will continue as we navigate our way through the realities of living with COVID-19 as it affects the nitty gritty of our worship and ministry. A lot of work has gone into opening for private prayer and public worship. The PCC approved the necessary legalities to begin opening the building to the public once again.

Volunteers

We are grateful to those who have offered to help steward our public services and church open times in recent weeks. The age profile of our volunteers and numbers who fall into the 'clinically vulnerable categories' have meant that we have needed to ensure that all understand government advice around the risks of entering public spaces.

Church Finances

The Gift Aid claim to 5/4/20 has been settled. We received £9315.67 from HMRC.

The VAT refund claim has been settled. We received £3010 from LPOW. We have received the first payment from the Job Retention Scheme (April to June) Total received from HMRC was £2031.12.

In the first six months of this year our gift aided income is £3k under budget and non-gift aided giving is down £1k. This is entirely due to the lockdown. Reduction in total Income 2020, predominantly since March 16th totals £9,500.

To partially compensate for this shortfall we have reduced our monthly payment to the Diocese (Parish Share) by £2k to £2k and this will be reviewed when our levels of income recover.

Utility bills will be significantly reduced.

The St Giles Centre, including use of the church building for purposes other than public worship and private prayer.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown and closure of the church, all existing room bookings remain either cancelled, postponed or suspended for the time being.

A document is being worked on identifying the issues to be addressed when considering the gradual re-opening of the Centre in coming months to both regular and one-off users. This is proving to be a complex task because of the variety of guidance from both government and church which impacts community use of church buildings for a variety of purposes.

Total loss of Centre Income from bookings at 30th June = £3650 approx.

It is very good news that a Business Support grant of £5000 has been received from the Discretionary Grant Fund (part of the Small Business Grants Scheme operated by Wakefield Council on behalf of the Government).

An application has also been made to the Live Well Wakefield Small Grants – Coronavirus Resilience” scheme. The application is seeking funding (range £300 - £8000) to support the preparation of a safe restart of the Centre activities following the easing of Government restrictions. We await hearing whether we have been successful or not.

Health and safety

Weekly inspections and mandatory tests being carried out, namely; the annual testing of the fire extinguishers and servicing of the hydraulic lift.

The planned major overhaul of the bells is still set to take place starting with the removal of the major components on the 10th of August and their return three weeks later.

A grant of £2000 has been secured from The Yorkshire Ringers Association towards the cost of this work and the VAT component of the cost is fully recoverable.

The maintenance schedule is still on hold but it is hoped that as we move forward things will change to allow to get back on track.

Public Worship at St Giles and including St Mary's Church

Going forward in the summer period, we will offer public worship twice a week on Sundays (10.15am) and Wednesdays (9.30am). It is hoped in the short term we can continue with one main Sunday service (rather than splitting to two) with accompanied live streaming, certainly until the shielding members of the congregation are able to attend (2nd August). Morning Prayer will happen in church from Tuesday to Thursday at 9.00am from w/b 19th July and throughout August if staff are available. There isn't usually a first Sunday service of Evensong in August.

As part of her Reader training, Jill Clapham will do a weekly online Compline at 8.00pm on Thursdays beginning on 30th July.

The possibility of resuming the Friday Mass can be re-looked at in coming weeks, but realistically it may be September before it is possible. All public services are dependent on a sufficient volunteer base being alongside to open safely, along with a cleaning regime that enables us to be COVID-safe.

A date has now been agreed with St Mary's Community Centre for a Sunday service to resume for St Mary's on Sunday 6th September.

Funerals, baptisms and weddings can happen in church with a limit of 30 people. Memorial services are subject to the same limitations. Currently no singing is allowed and it doesn't look like this will change in the next few weeks.

Sadly, we still do not have permission for singing to happen in church, for choirs to rehearse, or for public concerts and performances.

There will be a review of the operational aspects of beginning public worship as we go forward in coming weeks.

Children's groups

The children's leaders are looking at the government guidance re resumption of children's groups in church. It is likely to be September before groups resume, in line with their usual break over the school holidays.

Pastoral Care

We are doing our best to keep in touch with people via phone and hope that as a Christian community we are all taking some responsibility to keep in touch with each other. The evidence is that is indeed happening. Wardens have delivered the weekly news sheet to all not able to receive it by email. The magazine has continued to be produced online and sent by email.

Prayer Resources:

The 'Worship at Home' tab on our website carries resources for daily Bible reading and prayer. The Sunday service booklets are uploaded under 'News' on the Thursday before. We also 'tweet' the Church of England Prayer of the Day on our twitter account (@CofEPontefract).

The Church of England continues to make 'free' resources available to people via its Daily Prayer apps, we sign post to them via our website, and social media accounts, along with our weekly news-sheet. The Digest of all resources available was updated for 'ordinary time' and lodged under 'Worship at Home.'

Daily Hope has been promoted via our notice-sheet. This is aimed at those who do not have access to the internet and all the online resources. Using a free freephone number (0800 8048044), it offers a hymn, reading and prayer – this is intended to be helpful for people, who can only access a phone or prefer only to use a phone.

We still await any further new guidance (on from the last guidance) concerning APCM's and office elections related to that meeting.

It is very much hoped that our next PCC meeting will be able to be held in church on 29th September 2020 at 7.00pm.



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Friday 10 July 2020

To all parishes in the Diocese of Leeds

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 both 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

One-liners

“I’ve decided to sell my Hoover – it was just collecting dust.”

“I’ve just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday. I’ll tell you what, never again.”

Tim Vine

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.

The last date for items for September’s magazine is **Sunday August 23rd**.

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

Year's mind. We give thanks for the lives of:- **4** Marian Schorah, **5** John Malcolm Darling, Norman Tetlow, **6** Lillian Ipson, **8** Dennis Lavin, **10** Hilda Haigh, **11** Patrick Brennan, **12** Iris Lavin, **13** Ernest Tetlow, **14** Eric Dalglish, **19** Eric Rushton, Ella Vivian Howarth, **21** Michael Whitcombe (Priest), **22** Norman Hemstock, **25** Isabella Jackson, John Sanderson, **26** Alice Ainslie, **28** Peter Hemstock, **29** Alan Cutting, **30** Annie Hayward, **31** Gerry Davis.

We also give thanks for the life of Violet Crosland (20/07) who was unfortunately omitted from last month's magazine.

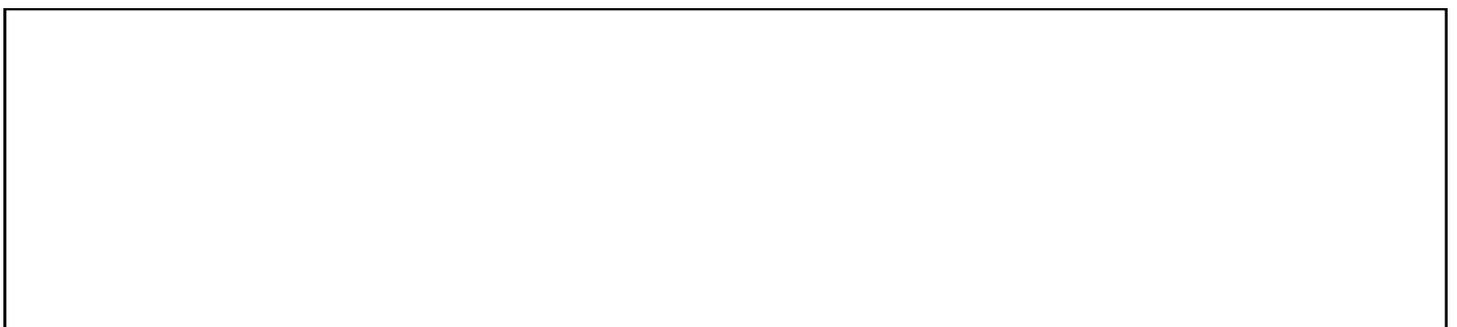
*Commemorations begin on the Sunday **before** the date given or on the date if this is a Sunday. If you would like to add a name to the Years' Mind List please write it in the diary in Reception or e-mail to Vivienne using -*

stgileschurchurchpontefract@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
02/08/20 8th Trinity	10.15 am. Eucharist	<p>Our services are thankfully once again taking place in Church and simultaneously streamed on</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/</p> <p>Eucharist on Sunday at 10:15 a.m. and Said Mass on Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m.</p>				
09/08/20 9th Trinity	10.15 am. Eucharist					
16/08/20 Feast of the Assumption	10.15 am. Eucharist					
23/08/20 11th Trinity	10.15 am. Eucharist					
30/08/20 12th Trinity	10.15 am. Eucharist					

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings
02/08/20 8th Trinity	<p>Here are the readings for the Sunday services in August</p>				Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21
09/08/20 9th Trinity					Romans 10.5-15 Matthew 14.22-33
16/08/20 Feast of the Assumption					Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 1.46-55
23/08/20 11th Trinity					Romans 12.1-8 Matthew 16.13-20
30/08/20 12th Trinity					Romans 12.9-end Matthew 16.21-end



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Canon June Lawson
Fr Michael Taylor (Honorary Priest)
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

A Prayer for our times

Thomas Merton (1915 - 1968)

My Lord God

I have no idea where I am going.

I cannot see the road ahead of me

and I do not know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I know myself,

and the fact that I think I am following your will

does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe

that the desire to please you

does in fact please you.

And I hope

that I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this

you will lead me by the right road,

though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always.

Though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death,

I will not fear,

for you are ever with me,

and will never leave me

to face my perils alone.

Amen

St Giles' Guide Book



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