



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



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Reader David Brooks: 07584 859569

**Public Services this week will be additionally live streamed on [Facebook](#)
Sunday 9th and Sunday 16th August at 10.15am, Wednesday 12th at 9.30am.
Jill Clapham, trainee Reader, will do a weekly online Compline at 8.00pm on
Thursdays beginning on 30th July.**

SUNDAY, 9th AUGUST 2020



BISHOP NICK HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING LETTER IN AID OF THE SUDAN EMERGENCY APPEAL



July 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sudan Emergency appeal

The coronavirus pandemic has caused massive disruption across the globe, including here in England. We need no reminder of the costs of this. Imagine, then, the impact on a country such as Sudan. Our brothers and sisters in our link dioceses there have no recourse to support for very basic needs other than external agencies. Their situation is more than challenging as the Church, under the leadership of Archbishop Ezekiel (with whom I speak frequently), seeks to feed the increasing number of poor, dispossessed and desperate people. The pandemic has led to rapid increase in unemployment and rampant inflation, pushing the purchase of even basic food beyond the reach of many people.

We have been linked with Sudan for around forty years. So, I am launching an emergency appeal right cross the Diocese of Leeds to support our brothers and sisters there. We are asking, on behalf of Archbishop Ezekiel, for funds for emergency food and supplies for those across the country who rely on the church for support or survival. The need is urgent and is increasing in severity:

- More than 9.6 million people are in need of urgent help with food – that is one in four of the population.
- The inflation rate has surged to 136% in June alone. This includes the price of food basics such as bread, grains and cooking oil, as well as water, fuel and cooking gas.

Our partner church is deeply shaken by the effects of the coronavirus. Archbishop Ezekiel says that his people claim “they would rather die of a virus than of hunger”. The lock-down has cut people off from any income, leaving entire families and communities in dire

need. The majority of Christians are the poorest of the poor, living in long-term displacement camps, in crowded townships with no medical facilities and no running water. The Church in Sudan has no financial reserves to meet this crisis.

Our Leeds Diocesan Link is one of the very few sources of support that Christians have in Sudan. The Link has already given emergency relief grants since March of £22,580 but we urgently need to give more. It may be hard to believe, but there are no state benefits or free medical help and no free education. All western aid agencies were thrown out of the country years ago by the last dictatorship which was itself overthrown last spring. The new government and its economic capacity is fragile. The DEC Appeal is not able to cover Sudan as agencies have no partners there.

Archbishop Ezekiel tells us that he has been praying for us during our lockdown. He is so thankful for the help we have given so far, which he has used to help buy food such as flour, grains and cooking oil. These have been made into food packs distributed to families by the Mothers Union throughout the country. Many of you may have met their key leaders, Mama Sameira and Mama Heweya, last year when they visited our diocese.

During the UK lockdown many of us have not spent as much as we would normally do if we had been travelling out and about. Of course, many people here have lost their income and security, and not everybody will be able to give; but many have been able to save during lockdown here. We can show our gratitude to God by being generous towards the Church in Sudan a special gift to help the church in Sudan. Large amounts are needed there, but even small amounts make a difference. The funds raised will go for emergency food, water, medical supplies, and any other emergency help that local churches may identify themselves.

- £25 could help buy an emergency food pack for a one family. Perhaps that equates to a meal out for two not taken over lockdown.
- £50 could pay for fuel to help the Sudan Mothers Union safely distribute food and emergency supplies in the townships. Perhaps the cost of a tank of fuel saved during lockdown here.
- £500 could help provide a church with weeks of emergency funding to support their families in crisis.

To give, you will find information <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/finance/donations> or you can simply make a cheque payable to 'Leeds DBF', posting it to Leeds DBF, 17-19 York Place, Leeds LS1 2EX with a note saying it is 'for Sudan emergency'.

Prayers, a short video and the latest news will be on the website, so please keep checking there. This will be a short term emergency appeal (until the end of August), so please share this need as soon as you are able and with as many people as you can.

With my thanks and prayers.

+ Nicholas Baines Leeds

The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines
Bishop of Leeds



THIS WEEK THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SERVICES ON
SUNDAY, 9TH AUGUST: 10.15AM—PARISH EUCHARIST
WEDNESDAY, 12TH AUGUST: 9.30AM—WEEKDAY MASS
SUNDAY, 16TH AUGUST: 10.15AM PARISH EUCHARIST

Wednesday Mass 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.

FACE MASKS - 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.

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.

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 - 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.

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.

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

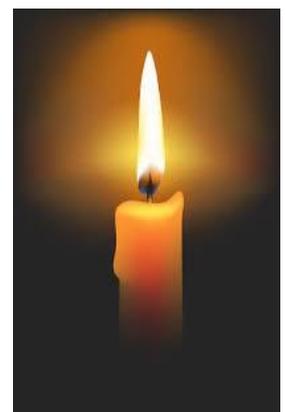
WEDNESDAY, 12TH AUGUST: 10.30AM—12.00PM

**DUE TO A FUNERAL TAKING PLACE, THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED
FOR PRIVATE PRAYER ON FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST**

**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 READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, 10th

Morning: Psalm 44 & Acts 1.1-14

Evening: Psalm 47 & Mark 1.1-13

Tuesday, 11th

Morning: Psalm 48 & Acts 1.15 to end

Evening: Psalm 50 & Mark 1.14-20

Wednesday, 12th

Morning: Psalm 119.57-80 & Acts 2.1-21

Evening: Psalm 59 & Mark 1.21-28

Thursday, 13th

Morning: Psalm 57 & Acts 2.22-36

Evening: Psalm 62 & Mark 1.29 to end

Friday, 14th

Morning: Psalm 51 & Acts 2.37 to end

1st EP of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Evening: Psalm 72 & John 19.23-27

Saturday, 15th

Morning: Psalms 98, 138 & 147.1-2 & Luke 11.27-28

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Evening: Psalm 132 & Acts 1.6-14

SERVICE OF COMPLINE

As part of my ongoing Reader training, I will be livestreaming a short service of Compline on our Facebook page at 8.00pm on Thursdays, commencing Thursday 30th July. You can download the Church of England Prayer App, which I will be using, for your phone or iPad; the service is also available on our website www.stgilespontefract.org.uk Alternatively you will find the Order for Night Prayer, as it is also known, in *Common Worship Daily Prayer* on page 337.



Compline offers us all the opportunity for quiet reflection to close our day and to draw closer to God in prayer. I do hope you will be able to join me.



Jill Clapham
Trainee Reader



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



CONNECTIONS

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** - has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions.

With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, what-ever age they are.

Archbishop Justin Welby

RHYTHM OF LIFE

A New Spirituality Initiative in the diocese

“As Christians, we believe Jesus should be at the heart of our rhythms of life, whatever our circumstances. This will have a far-reaching impact on our own well-being and the good of others – on our loving, living and learning.

I would like to invite you to join the diocesan ‘Rhythm of Life’ venture. This will involve individual commitments, accessing resources and mutual support. Some key areas will be given special attention: praying, encouraging, sharing, reflecting, celebrating, resting and creating.”

Bishop Nick Baines



So how do I get started?

1. Download the Rhythm of Life [invitation leaflet](#) and the [Practical Commitment Card](#).
2. Join a Rhythm of Life [‘Get started’ session](#) (optional) hosted by Bishop Tony Robinson.
3. Set aside some time for ‘taking stock’ and reflecting on your current rhythm of life.
4. Begin your ‘taking stock’ time by praying for wisdom to identify practical commitments that will make a positive difference.
5. Use the Rhythm of Life invitation leaflet to consider which of seven suggested areas could benefit from attention in your current circumstances.
6. For ideas for practical commitments, consult the Practical Commitment Card and the resources section on the [Rhythm of Life page](#) on the Digital Learning Platform.
7. Make one or more practical commitments, recording details on your card.
8. Set a date when you will be pause to review and take stock again, recording it on your Practical Commitment Card.
9. Be open to sharing your experience of your chosen commitment(s) with others.

Join in with this ongoing venture by [subscribing to updates](#), including opportunities for mutual support.

learning.leeds.anglican.org/RoL

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 12.00pm 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, 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 e-magazine for August is now 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.

[August Parish Magazine](#)

Stuart and Bruce would very much welcome any contributions for the September magazine, particularly any lockdown experiences that you would like to share.

Please send your contributions to both of the email addresses below.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Wednesday, 12th August: Deadline for Notices. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Sunday, 23rd August: Deadline for September's Parish Magazine.

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

If you would like something posted on our social media platforms, please email: stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com

To keep in touch with the latest news from the Parish, please visit our websites:

www.stgilespontefract.org.uk

www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract



Twitter: [@CofEPontefract](https://twitter.com/CofEPontefract) & Instagram: [stgilespontefract](https://www.instagram.com/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 [August Parish Magazine](#) for more information or phone us on 01977 707056. Paul and Ann Harris

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>

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'.

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](#).

Citizens Advice Wakefield District continue to offer a full range of advice and help.

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

We are able to offer advice & assistance via telephone, email or webchat

(Debt/Benefits/Housing/Employment/Family) - Telephone 03444 111 444

(Universal Credit – Help to Claim) - Telephone 0800 144 8 444

(Consumer goods, services, digital, events, travel etc.) - Telephone 0808 223 1133

Email us via www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk

Web chat with us at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us/