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

St Giles'
One Church, One Community

Parish Administrator: Vivienne Smales
Parish office: 01977 790448
Email: stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com
Home: Tuesday and Thursday, 10.00am-2.00pm
Parish Office: Wednesday and Friday 10.00am-2.00pm

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 30th August and Sunday 6th September at 10.15am, Wednesday 2nd September at 9.30am.

Jill Clapham, trainee Reader, will do a weekly online Compline at 8.00pm on Thursdays beginning on 30th July.

SUNDAY, 30th AUGUST 2020

SERVICES PATTERN

Just a note to say that we are keeping under review our present service pattern. It will be obvious to you all that as restrictions continue to apply we can't fit our usual (pre-Covid) congregational numbers in. At present, however, we can and we still have some capacity, but this could change when people not currently attending Sunday worship return. When we need to alter times, the pattern would be a 9.30am Mass (live-streamed as needed) followed by a 11.30am choral Mass (not live-streamed). The first Mass we envisage being shorter, and music, if able to be incorporated in some form, would be more limited than the 11.00am. We would need to keep sufficient space between services to sanitise the seats used.

It would help us if you are still staying at home on Sundays to let us know when you think you might return to Sunday services, as this will help us to see when we may need to change our pattern—stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

The monthly **8.00am Mass** will not be able to resume on 6th September and will be catered for by the 9.30am service if this is in place by October.

Evening Prayer will be said online and on Facebook on Sunday, 6th September at 6.30pm.

It is not envisaged that **The Friday Mass** can return until the beginning of October.

St Mary's Church will not be able to begin Sunday services from 6th September as originally hoped. The timing of when the Sunday Mass might begin again will be reviewed later in September, hopefully in time for October.

SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER AT 6.30PM ONLINE AND ON FACEBOOK

THIS WEEK THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SERVICES ON
SUNDAY, 30TH AUGUST: 10.15AM—PARISH EUCHARIST
WEDNESDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER: 9.30AM—WEEKDAY MASS
SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER: 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 - It is now mandatory (a legal requirement) 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.

Those who are leading services (generally clergy) or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayer) do not always need to wear a face covering, although one should be worn especially if physical distancing cannot be maintained (i.e. distributing consumables).
https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/COVID%2019%20advice%20on%20face%20coverings%20v3%20DRAFT.pdf

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 - Singing is not currently permitted for congregations. Recent government legislation (August 15th) will allow us, in due course, to use a small group of choir members to sing hymns/choral music in the service. 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 CHUCH WILL OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES ON

WEDNESDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER: 10.30AM—12.00PM
FRIDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER: 12.00PM—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 READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, 31st August	Morning	Psalm 98 & Acts 8.26 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 105 & Mark 6.45 to end
Tuesday, 1st September	Morning:	Psalm 106 & Acts 9.1-19a
	Evening:	Psalm 107 & Mark 7.1-13
Wednesday, 2nd	Morning:	Psalm 111 & Acts 9.19b-31
	Evening:	Psalm 119.129-152 & Mark 7.14-23
Thursday, 3rd	Morning:	Psalm 115 & Acts 9.32 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 116 & Mark 7.24-30
Friday, 4th	Morning:	Psalm 139 & Acts 10.1-16
	Evening:	Psalm 130 & Mark 7. 31 to end
Saturday, 5th	Morning:	Psalm 121 & Acts 10.17-33
	Evening:	Psalm 118 & Mark 8.1-10

ST GILES' PATRONAL FESTIVAL, SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

We will welcome +Mark Sowerby, Principal of the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, to be our preacher on that day. Bishop Mark was Bishop of Horsham in Sussex before taking up his new post at the college in 2019.

LUNCH WITH US

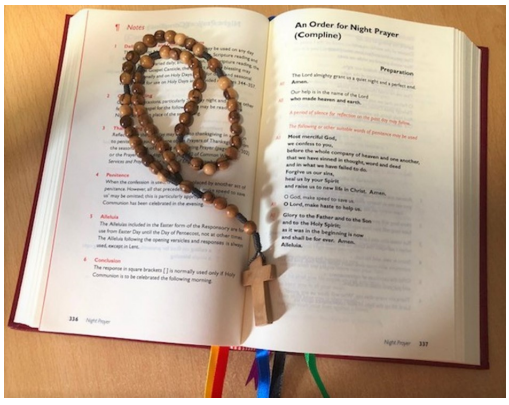
Hi everyone, as you may be aware Lunch with Us will be starting again on Wednesday, 2nd September 2020 from 12.00pm to 1.30pm. It has been a while and will be very different to before with a takeaway service only. All COVID regulations have to be followed for the volunteers involved. We are hoping that we will be able to provide a much needed service to the many vulnerable people in our community.

Barbara Sessford

SERVICE OF COMPLINE

Our weekly service of Compline on our Facebook page was originally going to run until the end of August. Following a conversation with Canon June we have decided to continue streaming Compline at 8pm on Thursdays for the foreseeable future. Compline offers us an opportunity to come together, albeit virtually, to bring the day to a prayerful end; I do hope you will be able to join me.

Jill (trainee Reader)



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 on **Tuesday, 8th September, 7.30pm-9.00pm, online.**
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 September is now available to view on the website. Thank you for all of your contributions.
September Parish Magazine

Stuart and Bruce would very much welcome any contributions for the October 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, 2nd September: Deadline for Notices. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Sunday, 20th September: Deadline for October's Parish Magazine.
Please e-mail items to both brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com

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

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