



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



Parish Administrator: Vivienne Smales
Parish office: 01977 790448
Email: stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com
Home: Tuesday and Thursday, 10.00am-2.00pm
Parish Office: Monday 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 20th and Sunday 27th September at 10.15am, Wednesday 23rd September at 9.30am.

Jill Clapham, trainee Reader, will continue the weekly online Compline - 8.00pm on Thursdays.

SUNDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER 2020

ST GILES ANNUAL MEETING

(This may be subject to change again, following the government's new restrictions)

The postponed Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings due to be held on 29th March 2020 has **now been rearranged for Sunday, 4th OCTOBER** and will take place after the morning service.

At the APCM meeting, in order to prevent people remaining too long in church after the service, we will only deal with what is legally necessary. The Annual Report and Agenda, which had been prepared for the March meeting, will be available on our website, and also via email ahead of the October meeting. Paper copies will be available for the meeting on the day, along with any other papers. If you have any questions concerning the contents of the report which covers the churches life from APCM 2019 - March 2020, then please email them or ring in by 28th September. Written response will be made and then circulated.

At these meetings, churchwardens are elected for the coming year, together with members of the Parochial Church Councils and representatives to the Deanery Synod. **Nomination forms for all of these roles will in due course be available in church, or by email from Vivienne Smales, our administrator—**
stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

St Giles needs to elect: 4 churchwardens (1 year term), 3 PCC members for 3 years and one casual vacancy for 1 year, also 4 Deanery Synod representatives (3 year term).

Nomination forms should be sent to the parish office or handed to Canon June by Sunday 29th September.

Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to these roles, and speak to Canon June if you have any questions.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP IF YOU INTEND TO BE PRESENT SO THAT WE CAN ENSURE THAT WE DON'T EXCEED CAPACITY. WE WILL TRY TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION SHOULD THAT OCCUR.

ST GILES' AND HERITAGE OPEN DAYS, 11-20 September 2020 —new video now online!

This year's Heritage Open Days are in full swing, though in a virtual sense. For a bit about our fascinating history, view our video available now on the St Giles' website at <http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/new/heritage-video/>

We hope you enjoy it—and please, tell your friends!

For those of you with a Facebook or Twitter account, you might like to view the daily programme, 'Fact of the Day', videos, slideshows, photographs, children's activities and opportunities for self-guided walks with Pontefract Civic Society.

Stay tuned to [@pontefractcivic](#) on social media. You can also enjoy the festival in other places on social media [@heritageopendays](#)

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 11.00am 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.

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.



THIS WEEK THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SERVICES ON
SUNDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER: 10.15AM—PARISH EUCHARIST
WEDNESDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER: 9.30AM—WEEKDAY MASS
SUNDAY, 27TH 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).

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. However, we are able to have 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.

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.

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

**WEDNESDAY,
23RD SEPTEMBER:
10.30AM—12.00PM**



**FRIDAY,
25TH SEPTEMBER:
12.00PM—1.00PM**

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, 21st	Morning:	Psalms 49, 117 & 2 Timothy 3.14 to end
Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	Evening:	Psalm 119.33-40, 89-96 & Matthew 19.16 to end
Tuesday, 22nd	Morning:	Psalm 36 & Acts 16.25 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 33 & Mark 11.12-26
Wednesday, 23rd	Morning:	Psalm 34 & Acts 17.1-15
	Evening:	Psalm 119.33-56 & Mark 11.27 to end
Thursday, 24th	Morning:	Psalm 37 & Acts 17.16 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 40 & Mark 12.1-12
Friday, 25th	Morning:	Psalm 31 & Acts 18.1-21
	Evening:	Psalm 35 & Mark 12.13-17
Saturday, 26th	Morning:	Psalm 42 & Acts 18.22-19.7
	Evening:	Psalm 46 & Mark 12.18-27

FOLLOW ME 7

Bishop Tony commends the following series of lectures, streamed from St. Martin's in the Field, London, given that 'Follow Me 7' this September cannot happen due to ongoing restrictions. The speakers are first rate and the subjects comprehensive.

IN WHAT DO WE TRUST? What can we trust in the midst of a global crisis where so much of our way of life that we have taken for granted seems to be at stake?

Monday, 5th October

7.00pm—8.30pm

Trusting in Faith

Bishop Rowen Williams

Monday, 12th October

7.00pm—8.30pm

Trusting the Gods

Neil MacGregor

Monday, 2nd November

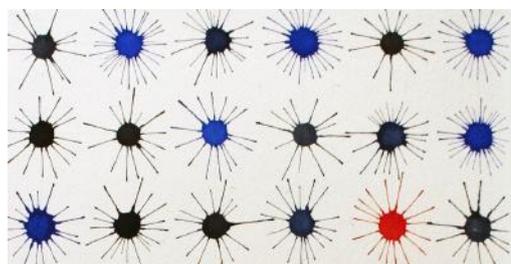
7.00pm—8.30pm

Trusting in Scripture

Paula Gooder

All the lectures are [livestreamed from St Martin's on our Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/stmartininthefields) (no ticket or Facebook account required). <https://www.facebook.com/stmartininthefields>

Bishop Tony Robinson
Bishop of Wakefield



St Martin-in-the-Fields Autumn Lecture Series 2020

In What Do We Trust?

What can we trust in the midst of a global crisis where so much of our way of life that we have taken for granted seems to be at stake?



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

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.



CONNECTIONS

PONTEFRACT FOODBANK—HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION

As part of the Harvest food collection this year, St Giles will be collecting donations of basic long-life foods for the Foodbank. Please bring donations to church and place them in the trolley by the door on the Sunday before (27th) or the Sunday when harvest is celebrated. Your time is just as valuable. So, if you can spare some time in the warehouse on Thursdays, please contact the Project Manager, Ian Clark, Tel 07935 530 583 to discuss any time you can offer.



The Foodbank restarted food distribution on Thursdays from the 17th September using e-vouchers and a delivery system. Food is not available from the Central Methodist Church, but if you identify a need for Foodbank help, please signpost people to **WMDC 0345 8 506 506**. Help is also offered on Tuesdays and Fridays by St Mary's Hub, who can be contacted on the same number.

Council colleagues will talk things through with the person needing help and, if possible, send on the request for help by secure email to the Foodbank. Foodbank volunteer driving teams will take food to client's homes.

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 shown opposite:

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>

BOTTLE STALL



We are arranging to hold a bottle stall (we aim to gather 100 bottles) in aid of Church funds. Bottles can be anything from water to bubble bath or a crisp white to a good malt! If you donate a bottle, large or small, we would be extremely grateful.

Please leave bottles in the trolley at reception. The stall will be held one Wednesday morning, and the date will be advised in due course.

Thank you, Marjorie and Pat.



DIOCESE OF LEEDS — TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Following successful online delivery last term, and as they are currently still unable to meet face to face, the Lay Training Team are offering some further training opportunities using their online classroom [similar to Zoom] for this coming term.

<p>THE WORLD OF JESUS</p> <p>A 6 week course starting</p> <p>Saturday September 26th 10.00am – 12.00pm</p>	<p>A six week online course led by Canon Gordon Dey https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/the-world-of-jesus/</p> <p><i>‘The World of Jesus’ will explore from scripture, other contemporary writings, and extensive archaeological evidence, the social, political and geographical context of Jesus’ ministry.</i></p>
<p>PASTORAL CONVERSATIONS</p> <p>Wednesday October 7th 2.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>or</p> <p>Monday November 9th 7.00pm-9.00pm</p>	<p>https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/online-pastoral-conversations-course/</p> <p><i>An introduction to pastoral care and effective listening designed to nurture skill and confidence in those involved in caring for others.</i></p>
<p>DISCOVERY COURSE</p> <p>a 5 week course starting</p> <p>Wednesday October 7th 2.00pm-4.00pm</p>	<p>https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/online-discovery-course/</p> <p><i>Are you wondering about your unique contribution as a Christian? Where would you be best placed to serve others? This course gently helps us discover our spiritual gifts, passions and personality in order to discern our best fit in serving God and others.</i></p>

Please register for the courses through the link on the web page. Details on how to access the online provision will be sent to participants once they have registered for the course. This is an opportunity to continue to learn and grow together at this time.

Caring for each other....

In a large congregation people easily get missed. If someone usually sits by you and they haven't been seen for a while, please either try and find out how they are or let us know and we will try and make contact. Please also ask the person if they would like to go on the service prayer list (using their full name or just first name). A note to us giving a contact number or address of the person concerned often helps.



LAPTOPS FOR SALE

The church has two laptops (HP225 G5 Notebooks) for sale for a donation of £50 each. They have been fully maintained by the church and have had low usage. They are running Windows 10 and come with the usual features installed (Word, Excel, Access, Publisher etc.). For further details, please contact Vivienne Smales in the church office (stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com).

The e-magazine for September is 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. Please e-mail items to brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com by **Sunday, 20th September.**

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Wednesday, 23rd September: Deadline for Notices. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

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.

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)



We look forward to hearing from you.