

*Parish of Pontefract  
St Giles with St Mary*

*Pray*

*Learn*

*Teach*

*September 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, soon 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

### The Vicar writes...

Canon John was reminding us on Sunday 22nd August how the notion of church begins to be introduced in Matthew's gospel. You won't find mention of the term 'ecclesia' (Gk for church) in Mark, Luke or John. We read in the gospel how individuals are called by Jesus. They form a body of disciples, share the faith with others, and it isn't too long before a community is formed which needs to order its life and fellowship together. Within half a century of St Paul's lifetime, the institutional structures are present which help the church to shape its life and mission. Church councils deciding on ecclesiastical and doctrinal matters are mentioned very early in the history of the church as we read in Acts 15!

Matthew, through the story of Jesus' encounter with Peter, reminds us that a personal response to 'Who Jesus is' ('who do you say that I am..') is foundational to the building of his church on earth (I will build my church and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it..'). After all, Jesus is the 'head of the church' as the writer to the Colossians tells us:

*17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 **He is the head of the body, the church**; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross (chapter 1).*

'Christ is the head of the body, the church.' As we seek to order our ministry and mission in the ways that the 21st century does, then we need to remember our personal response to Jesus' call on our lives to join Christ's 'body' (His church) in the task of building his church on earth:

'The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world...The church exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship'. (N.T.Wright in 'Simply Christian'..)

The preamble above is to say that fulfilling the role of church warden, PCC member and deanery synod member helps the church to fulfil its vision. The structures of the local church are important and they deserve a prayerful response on our part as we consider the call to serve in such ways and in other ways that help the church to be the church.

So...can you help to fill a vacancy to serve as part of the structures that govern our life and ministry together in Pontefract. Please see below.

### **St Giles' Annual Meeting**

The postponed Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings due to be held on 29th March 2020 **has now been rearranged for 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.

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.**

**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 27th 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. ALTERNATIVE ARRANGMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION WILL BE MADE SHOULD THAT OCCUR.

Canon June

**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.

## From the Diocesan Web Site



A nestful of robins added surprise natural beauty to an Easter floral display placed outside one of our locked churches.

As the undisturbed flowers stood untouched for weeks during lockdown, enterprising feathered parents made a tiny

nest behind Easter lilies in perfect sanctuary.

Worshipper Irene Truman created the display to go between a locked porch door and a shut gate at St Peter's, East Marton, in the Ripon Episcopal Area.

“With appropriate permission I placed a large floral display in front of the door within the south porch” Irene said.

“I used white Easter lilies together with bright yellow alstroemeria and sunny round-faced orange flame gerbera against a natural frame of beech twigs and variegated greenery from kind neighbours’ gardens.

“The whole effect was constructed to give hope and cheer during 'strange' times.

“It was titled 'Rise and Shine' and beamed hope, joy and cheer out to passing locals doing their daily exercise. It went out with my Easter Blessing,” Irene said.

Mother Nature then added an extra blessing when keen-eyed robins chose



it to construct a nest, lay five eggs and fledge four young chicks.

“Their home was so well camouflaged within the back of the metal container holding my arrangement. And appropriately, fledging took place the day before our churches were allowed to open their doors for private prayer,” Irene said.

“Nature knew it would not be disturbed and used the opportunity to carry on with what it did best. “Maybe we should take notice and come out of our time of being 'locked out' with a greater respect for the natural world and all its glory.”

Note: The robin's red breast comes from Christ's blood on the Cross, which stained the little brown bird as it sang into his ear to ease his suffering, according to British folklore.

## 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](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)) (01977 790448)

## Returning to study

In just under a week I will be returning to the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, to begin my third year of Reader training, unless between now and then we find ourselves back in lockdown. The past academic year was quite different to any study I have undertaken previously. From March through to July all our lectures, worship, and tutor group meetings, like so many other things, went online. It was a little bit tricky to begin with as my computer did not have a camera or microphone. I never envisaged needing either when I purchased it. Thankfully, Peter had a headset with microphone which I could use until I finally managed to get my own; this took a while, just as there had been a run on hand sanitiser and toilet roll at the beginning of lockdown, there was also a run on computer peripherals.

Tutors and students alike were on quite a steep learning curve when we took to on-line learning, but we all managed the transition quite smoothly and the whole thing became quite natural. I would imagine it gave Canon John and the other tutors a bit of a headache at times, but their hard work paid off and we all survived, if not thrived!

After having a break from study over the summer, I am ready for the new academic year and looking forward to getting back on site at Mirfield. I am looking forward to seeing people I have only seen on-line for the past six months. I am especially looking forward to meeting up with my tutor group; I have been particularly blessed with that small group of people who have become quite a support network. I have also been blessed with the support I have had over the past year from Canon June, Fr Michael, Fr Rod, David and the congregations at St Giles and St Mary's, as I have begun to find my feet preaching and leading worship.

Thank you for all your ongoing support and encouragement.

Jill

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**T** 0333 999 8603  
**E** [careline@hc-one.co.uk](mailto:careline@hc-one.co.uk)  
**A** Ladybalk Lane, Pontefract,  
West Yorkshire, WF8 1JQ

# A Japanese POW story – VJ75 day, 2020

I have been asked to enlarge upon the item regarding the memorial of my father that appeared in last weeks “Notices” as part of the VJ75 Remembrance Ceremony.

George was born in 1915, the youngest of 10 children. Two other males died in infancy leaving him and seven sisters. His father was a military man serving 25 years in the Field Artillery then recalled for 5 years for WWI.

It perhaps was not surprising with that background, that in 1929 he joined the Kentish Regiment “The Buffs”. At the age of 14!! He served 222 days before his mother reclaimed him from the Army. (No safeguarding then!).

Serial No. Buffs/1552 Army Form S.108.  
**Regular Army.**  
Certificate of Service.  
Army No. 6227241  
Surname *Hitchens*  
Christian Name *George Hitchens*  
Enlisted at *Canterbury*  
Enlisted on *2nd October 1929*  
Corps for which enlisted *The Buffs*  
NOTE.—Attention is specially directed to Pages 2, 6 & 7

Certificate of Discharge.  
Date of discharge *15 May 1930*  
Rank *Private*  
Cause of discharge *Having made a material part of age on enlistment*  
Corps from which discharged *The Buffs (S. West Regt)*  
Service on date of discharge:—  
(a) With Colours *Nil* years *222* days.  
(b) In the Reserve *Nil* years *Nil* days.  
TOTAL SERVICE *Nil* years *222* days.  
Description of soldier on discharge:—  
Year of birth *1915* Height *5 ft 5 1/2* in.  
Complexion *Flesh* Eyes *Blue* Hair *Fair*  
Marks or Scars *Scar on nose*  
Place *Stourhead* Date *18.5.30* Office *for Infantry*  
Signature and rank *[Signature]*  
\* Not required to be completed in the case of a man discharged from the Army Reserve.

George's 1929 enlistment papers,

Back in civvy street he trained as an electrician and worked in the building industry. He joined up again at the start of WW2 this time in his father's regiment the Royal Artillery.

He was posted to Singapore in late 1941 and spent a couple of months there before along with 85,000 other Allied troops was captured by the Japanese after the capitulation of Allied forces in Singapore, on 15 February 1942. It was the largest surrender of British-led forces in history.

In April 1942 the Seabridge enquiry for the Cabinet argued that the surrender was not justified at that time because;

They were not short of food & water (no rationing)

Plenty of fuel

Well-equipped troops

Poor moral due to speed of Japanese advance

Japanese propaganda believed by Asiatic forces

Churchill's statement to House "we will defend Johor (the other end of the causeway linking Singapore to the mainland) foot by foot" whilst evacuating defenders to Singapore.



No counter attack ordered, there were 5,000 invaders 60,000 defenders. Subsequent atrocities on the island have been well documented in other places.

George and thousands of others were sent to Prisoner of War camps throughout Asia. He was sent to Malaya and Thailand where thousands were forced to work on the Burma Railway.

The use of two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki together with the Russian invasion of Manchuria forced the Japanese to surrender on 15th of August 1945, 75 years ago.

Those that served in Malaya/Singapore did not qualify for the Burma Star, but were awarded the Pacific medal instead.

George like so many others never talked about the war. I have gleaned this information from inherited papers, relatives and the internet.

These hand painted pictures on rice paper were found in a book for safekeeping. His then wife, my step mother, told me they were exchanged for a packet of Players by a Japanese guard after they surrendered.



After the war he moved to London, then to Reading where he worked at Harwell, the Atomic Energy Research Establishment which developed nuclear reactors for electricity generation.

John Covill, August 2020

# A Stitch in Time



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Owner

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# Children's Word Search



## **Peter's Escape from Prison**

*Acts 12:1-19*

ANGEL	KEEPERS
APPREHENDED	KNOCKED
ASTONISHED	LIGHT
CHAINS	MARY
CHURCH	PETER
DEATH	PRAYING
EASTER	PRISON
EXAMINED	RHODA
GARMENT	SANDALS
HEROD	SLEEPING
IRON GATE	SOLDIERS
JAMES	SOUGHT
JOHN	UNLEAVENED



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**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.**

# 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/>

Our Church Administrator, Vivienne, deals with any amendments, additions or changes to the above websites.

Contact Vivienne by email at [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

The Calendar and bookings will still be handled by

Bill Bradley e mail [W.R.T.Bradley@btinternet.com](mailto:W.R.T.Bradley@btinternet.com)



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Email: [AJKlegalservices@gmail.com](mailto:AJKlegalservices@gmail.com)



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## 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, 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. Further details on exemptions can be found here - <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/COVID%2019%20advice%20on%20face%20coverings%20v3%20DRAFT.pdf>
- 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)
- 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 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.

- 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...

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## Children's Bible Quiz (Answers below)

1. Who was Jesus' human mother?
2. Name the city where Jesus was born?
3. Where did Jesus' family go when Herod wanted to harm him as baby?
4. How many of Jesus' brothers are named in the Bible?
5. Who baptised Jesus?
6. Name the place where Jesus walked on water?
7. How many disciples did Jesus choose?
8. What was Matthew before he followed Jesus?
9. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
10. Why did Jesus weep in that verse?
11. How much bread and fish did Jesus use to feed over 5000 people?
12. What was Peter and Andrew doing when Jesus' called them to follow him?
13. What did Jesus do at the Last Supper to his disciples?
14. Name the disciple who betrayed Jesus.
15. What garden did Jesus go to when he prayed after the Last Supper?
16. Name the Roman Governor who sat over Jesus trial?
17. What day of the week did Jesus rise back to life?
18. How many days before Jesus returned to Heaven?

1. Mary ; 2. Bethlehem ; 3. Egypt ; 4. Four ; 5. John the Baptist ; 6. Sea of Galilee ; 7. 12 ; 8. A tax collector ; 9. John 11:35 Jesus wept. ; 10. Because his friend Lazarus died. ; 11. Five loaves of bread—and two fish ; 12. Fishing ; 13. Washed their feet ; 14. Judas Iscariot ; 15. Garden of Gethsemane ; 16. Pilate ; 17. Sunday – the first day of the week ; 18. 40 days.

## Quote

“Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose.”

Lyndon B. Johnson

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:brucedalgleish0@gmail.com) and [stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com](mailto:stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com)

in case one or other is on holiday etc.

**The last date** for items for October's magazine is **Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>**.

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

## Funerals in August

Kathleen Beaumont

**“May she rest in peace and rise in glory.”**

**Year's mind.** We give thanks for the lives of :- **Sep 4** Joan Godridge, Denis Alan Law, **5** Ellen May Hemstock, **6** Kenneth Cook, **14** Jim Faulkner, Gary Neilson, Margaret Turner, **15** Edith Brentnall, **17** Jonathan Andrew Leigh, **21** Gwendoline Whitcombe, **23** Sidney Kaye, **24** Edward Kirkwood, **28** Shirley Law, David James Godridge

*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 -*

*stgileschurchpontefract@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
06/09/20 Patronal Service	10.15 am. Eucharist	<p>Our services are thankfully once again taking place in Church and simultaneously streamed on</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/">https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/</a></p> <p>Eucharist on Sunday at 10:15 a.m. and Said Mass on Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m.</p>				
13/09/20 14th Trinity	10.15 am. Eucharist					
20/09/20 15th Trinity	10.15 am. Eucharist					
27/09/20 St Michael and All Angels	10.15 am. Eucharist					
Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings	
06/09/20 Patronal Service	<p>Here are the readings for the Sunday services in September</p>				Proverbs 10. 27-32 2 Corinthians 10.17-11.2 Matthew 11. 25-30	
13/09/20 14th Trinity					Romans 14.1-12 Matthew 18.21-35	
20/09/20 15th Trinity					Phil 1.21-end. Matthew 20.1-16	
27/09/20 St Michael and All Angels					Revelation 12:7-12 John 1.47-end	

# THE BENEFICE OF PONTEFRACT

## St. Giles with St. Mary

**St Giles' Church, Market Place, Pontefract**  
**St Mary's Church, The Circle, Chequerfield**

**Tel: 01977 790448**

**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.**

#### **Reader (Hon)**

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**

Vivienne Smales 790448  
 stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

#### **PCC Treasurer**

David Leigh 706526

#### **Organist and Choir Director**

James MacDonald 790448

#### **Tower Captain**

Adrian Garner 690154

#### **Parish Magazine Editor**

Bruce Dalgleish 690216

#### **St Giles' Altar Flowers**

Barbara Chessman 700559

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#### **Missions Committee Secretary**

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#### **St Mary's Church Meeting Chair**

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#### **St Mary's Community Centre**

Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

#### **St Giles' Church School (aided)**

Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

#### **St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair**

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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