



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



Parish Administrator: Vivienne Smales
Parish office: 01977 790448
Email: stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com
Office hours: Monday (home), Tuesday, Thursday
(home) 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](#) on Sunday 4th and Sunday 11th October at 10.15am, Wednesday 7th October at 9.30am.

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

SUNDAY, 4th OCTOBER 2020—HARVEST



This month sees the launch of the [Harvest 2020: Thank you to our farmers!](#) campaign, inspired in large part by the recognition of people across the UK who have gained the role 'key workers' and the role they have played in keeping us all going through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Farmers are one such group of key workers, and over the last few months many people have become aware – some for the first time – of the vital role UK farms play in feeding our nation, while the food shortages we experienced in the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown reminded us how fragile the supply chain can be. Unable to go out, many people have been cooking and baking more than in the past, and some are growing fruit and vegetables at home for the first time. All of this has resulted in a more conscious appreciation of the food we eat and where it has come from.

As churches and communities across the UK prepare to celebrate harvest, let's embrace this opportunity to thank both the farmers across the UK who grow our food for us, and the Creator God that sustains and nurtures each of us.

A prayer for Harvest 2020

Loving God,
we give thanks for those who produce our food:
for farmers and fishermen, factory and shop workers.
We pray for those for whom this has been a difficult year:
farmers who have battled the weather to grow food,
delivery drivers and shop workers who kept working despite the
pandemic.
Help us to value and support each other.
In Jesus' name.



**SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER—OUR APCM TAKES PLACE AFTER THE SERVICE THIS MORNING.
SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER AT 6.30PM ONLINE AND ON FACEBOOK**



To All Bishops

23 September 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is clear that we now have to gear up for a second wave of the coronavirus. This is hard. Many people were starting to believe things could return to normal. They can't. But neither are we in the same place as before. We have learned a great deal. In our leadership of the Church and in the witness we show to our nation we need to be determined, resilient and hopeful. We will need to be more critical in our response to restrictions that are above and beyond government regulations, helping the church at the local level, in parish and diocese, steer a course that is marked by responsible action towards each other, care for the most vulnerable, and witness for the poor and disadvantaged who are suffering disproportionately. All this is the nature of love.

Our national situation is much more complicated than it was in March. The divisions are deeper. There is public and reasonable concern about hunger – especially amongst children – and homelessness, with an expected rapid rise in evictions. Domestic violence remains a major issue which is concealed.

We are also in a situation which threatens the recovery from the huge decline in the economy in the second quarter. The most vulnerable to this second wave are the small companies who employ the most people, and especially those in the hospitality industry. It will be for us and others to encourage the banks, who received such help in 2009, to be equally merciful to others as the nation was to them. St Matthew 18:23-35 seems highly relevant.

The poor, the elderly and isolated are especially vulnerable. There will be growing nervousness about Christmas, about mental health and many other issues that cannot be considered in this very short letter.

We are called to be responsible, but we are also called to resilience and prophetic speech. We have the networks, long since mobilised, and the partnerships to serve especially the hungry and homeless. Our schools are a particular treasure.

However, there will also be a sense of tiredness; the weariness which comes with dealing with yet another threat and difficulty. To face this, we must continue to encourage one another and bear one another's burdens. We must in our meetings be transparent with each other, able to say difficult things in a way that avoids mistakes being made through unwilling acquiescence to the perceived view of the majority.

Most of all we need to draw close to Christ, and continue to offer the hope and stability of the gospel. It is this gospel joy, even in the darkest times, that alone can help us through this crisis, bringing hope and an eternal perspective to the very pressing trials of the moment.

We are so grateful for our partnership with you in this work. Do feel free to share this letter as you see fit. And please be assured of our prayers.

In the peace of Christ,

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

AN EVENSONG SPECIAL

On Sunday, 18th October at 5.00pm we will live stream a service of evensong from church.

The setting, hymns and anthem will be sung by the St Giles Choir as directed by James MacDonald.

The organist will be Tom Moore.

Please do join us (online only) if you are able.



ST GILES BELFRY

On Sunday, 27th September, the bells of St Giles rang out once again to welcome everyone to church. The music (method) may have been a little different, due to the social distancing within the belfry, and of the 10 bells available, we were able to ring 3 of them by being evenly spaced apart.

The ringers are happy to be back in the belfry and embracing the challenge of ringing the bells with new bearings, repainted clappers and the removal of 25 years of dirt, dust and debris, whilst still remaining socially distanced!! It is fair to say that the bells are now swinging at super speed!



CAN YOU HELP?—WE REALLY DO NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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.

THIS WEEK THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SERVICES ON
SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER (HARVEST): 10.15AM—PARISH EUCHARIST
WEDNESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER: 9.30AM—WEEKDAY MASS
SUNDAY, 11TH OCTOBER: 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 - St Giles' is participating in the newly launched NHS Test and Trace App, enabling visitors to sign in by scanning a QR code. Look out for the posters on entry to the church. Please read pages 5 and 6 for additional information. However, we will continue to offer the paper form for those unable to use this system and a warden will tick your name off on the electoral roll if you are present for Sunday or Wednesday services. 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 be mindful of the government's directives related to the 'rule of six' when outside the building after worship. Mingling amongst groups is not permitted by law. Any sense of a gathered crowd will give the wrong messages. The church is being granted exemptions for numbers in worship, but not for social interaction before and after, inside or outside the building.

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,
7TH OCTOBER:
10.30AM—12.00PM**



**FRIDAY,
9TH OCTOBER:
12.00PM—1.00PM**

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, 5th	Morning:	Psalm 71 & Acts 21.37-22.21
	Evening:	Psalm 72 & Mark 14.1-11
Tuesday, 6th	Morning:	Psalm 72 & Acts 22.22-23.11
	Evening:	Psalm 74 & Mark 14.12-25
Wednesday, 7th	Morning:	Psalm 77 & Acts 23.12 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 119.81-104 & Mark 14.26-42
Thursday, 8th	Morning:	Psalm 78.1-39 & Acts 24.1-23
	Evening:	Psalm 78.40 to end & Mark 14.43-52
Friday, 9th	Morning:	Psalm 55 & Acts 24.24-25.12
	Evening:	Psalm 69 & Mark 14.53-65
Saturday, 10th	Morning:	Psalm 76 & Acts 25.13 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 84 & Mark 14.66 to end

ORDINATION OF ROB HARPER AS DEACON

Some of our congregation may remember Rob Harper, who grew up at St Giles. He will be ordained as deacon in a service at Bradford Cathedral on Sunday, 4 October at 10.00am at Bradford Cathedral. The service can be viewed live via this link: www.youtube.com/c/BradfordCathedral1 and the live link will be available as a recorded service from Bradford Cathedral's YouTube page after the service.

URGENT REQUEST

PLEASE recycle your butter/margarine tubs, preferably 250g but also 500g for takeaway jacket potatoes at Lunch with Us.



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.



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX CAMPAIGN 2020

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions and numerous infection possibilities, we are unable to go ahead with our shoe box appeal this year. I know many of you have been collecting items and will be very disappointed. Please believe me it's a decision that has not been taken lightly.

I hope next year we will continue to build on our success and smash our record of 500 shoe boxes.

God bless
Diane Williams



PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline for Notices: Wednesday, 7th October. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

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.

PASTORAL CONVERSATIONS Wednesday October 7th 2.00pm-4.00pm or Monday November 9th 7.00pm-9.00pm	https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/online-pastoral-conversations-course/ <i>An introduction to pastoral care and effective listening designed to nurture skill and confidence in those involved in caring for others.</i>
DISCOVERY COURSE a 5 week course starting Wednesday October 7th 2.00pm-4.00pm	https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/online-discovery-course/ <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>

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.

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 **Trusting in Faith**
7.00pm—8.30pm *Bishop Rowen Williams*

Monday, 12th October **Trusting the Gods**
7.00pm—8.30pm *Neil MacGregor*

Monday, 2nd November **Trusting in Scripture**
7.00pm—8.30pm *Paula Gooder*

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

Bishop Tony Robinson
Bishop of Wakefield



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.

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 this 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**.

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.



UPDATE ON ST MARY'S COMMUNITY HUB AND THE FOODBANK

Pontefract Foodbank is now back in operation, delivering food parcels each Thursday, via e-voucher referrals.

St Mary's Community Hub are presently delivering food parcels in Pontefract, on referral from Wakefield Council local welfare provision, each Tuesday and Friday. In light of Pontefract Foodbank's reopening, we are now able to reduce our support and will make our final delivery on 29th September and reduce our service to Fridays only.

Friday deliveries will then continue until 30th October 2020, after which date, we will bring our food parcel deliveries to a close. Any remaining food will subsequently be offered to Pontefract Foodbank and/or distributed within the immediate community.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and support with our emergency food bank over the past six months. You have all been so supportive, we have made invaluable links and met so many wonderful people along the way, including our truly incredible volunteers. This has been a real positive during such an awful time and we have been privileged to be able to help out so many members of our community.

Best wishes to you all,

Denise Pallet, Project Development Manager

Caring for each other....

In these difficult times, not all of us have been able to return to church. If you haven't seen someone 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.



Do you have a memory, either happy or sad, that you would like to share with our congregation, a wedding anniversary; a birthday; the passing of a loved one. Please consider sponsoring our service sheet so that we can share this with you. Either write your dedication in the diary in Reception or email to stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com or stgmnotices@gmx.com.

David Leigh will happily receive any sponsorship contributions. Thank you.

The [October Parish Magazine](#) is now available to view on the website. Thank you for all of your contributions.

Stuart and Bruce would very much welcome any contributions for the November magazine.

Please e-mail items to brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com by **Sunday, 25th October.**

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline for Notices: Wednesday, 7th October. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.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)



We look forward to hearing from you.

Information below is taken from The House of Bishops Covid-19 Recovery Group guidance, issued 23 September 2020.

THE RULE OF SIX AND CHURCH BUILDINGS

- The ‘rule of six’, that prevents more than six people gathering, does not apply in church buildings that have carried out a risk assessment and are Covid-19 secure. However, activities where close physical contact is likely to be hard to avoid, such as **coffee** after a service, are unlikely to be safe to hold.
- Whatever the **purpose of their visit** (worship, tourism, community activity or anything else), the total number of people attending worship is limited by how many people can socially distance within the venue. Seating, visitor routes and entrance/exit arrangements should enable everyone to practise physical distancing from those they don’t live with.
- People should only **enter and leave** the venue together, and socially interact, within a group of up to six, whether this six consists of one household or multiple households.
- **Communal worship** is specifically exempt from the rule of six, although even at worship services individual groups must be six or fewer and remain socially distanced both from other groups and from each other if those in the group are not part of the same household.
- **Informal groups** such as community workshops, keep fit, etc can still take place in Covidsecure premises with multiple groups of six, provided that these groups do not mingle.
- The total number of people attending worship is limited by how many people can socially distance within the venue. **Seating** should enable everyone to practise social distancing from those they don’t live with.
- Everyone should continue to **practise physical distancing** when mixing with people they don’t live with or are not in a support bubble with, even within a group of six.
- All attendees should be enabled to provide contact details for the purposes of **NHS Test and Trace**.
- For the purposes of this exemption, **young people** are below the age of 18.
- If an activity for children or young people is held in a church building then all those **over 11**, apart from those exempt, must wear a face covering.
- All attendees aged **over 16** should provide contact details for the purposes of NHS Test and Trace.
- The gatherings rule of six does not apply to weddings or religious life cycle ceremonies or funerals given their importance in people’s lives, but attendance continues to be limited for such standalone events. These are currently **15 for weddings, 30 for funerals** and **6 for baptisms**.
- In a COVID-19 Secure venue non-professional performing arts activity, including **choirs**, can continue to rehearse or perform together if they can do so in a way that ensures that there is no interaction between groups of more than 6 at any time.

NHS TEST AND TRACE APP

The NHS is launching a dedicated mobile app, which will be free to download and which meets the legal requirements of Test & Trace, as well as being GDPR compliant. Even though churches and cathedrals are not legally required to collect data, the NHS system is a simple and efficient way of taking part. The app will be available to download free from all major app stores and will work on all smartphones.

What is NHS Test & Trace?

The NHS Test and Trace service is a national service that includes:

- providing testing for anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus to find out if they have the virus;
- getting in touch with anyone who has had a positive test result to help them share information about any close recent contacts they have had; and
- alerting those contacts, where necessary, and notifying them that they need to self-isolate to help stop the spread of the virus.

How does Test & Trace app work?

- Everyone who can is encouraged to download the **NHS Covid-19 app**. It is available free from all major app stores. With its national launch on 24th September it will be open to all. Downloading apps will use mobile data so if you are worried about that then you are encouraged to download it at home or somewhere else with WiFi. Downloading the app over WiFi is very quick, but it is still much better to download Version 4 – issued 23rd September 2020 before going out.
- It allows users to ‘check-in’ to participating venues in England on their app by scanning the QR code. The information stays on the user’s phone – it is not shared with the venue.
- QR code posters are a quick, simple and secure way for visitors to ‘check-in’ to church using the app—look out for the posters in church.
- We recognise that there will be people who do not own a smartphone or who do not want to use the QR code system.
- An alternative, paper-based system will continue to be provided for those to give their details.

How do people scan the QR code on a Test & Trace poster?

If you open the NHS Test & Trace app and point the camera at the code it will read it automatically. It does not use any data, and does not require a mobile or WiFi signal. It will require the Bluetooth function to be switched on; this can be done in the settings feature. Bluetooth does not cause any charges to be added to phone bills and is safe to leave on all the time.

What to do if the NHS contact you.

Contact tracers will:

- call you from 0300 013 5000
- send you text messages from ‘NHStracing’
- ask you to sign into the NHS Test and Trace contact-tracing website

Contact tracers will never:

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account

- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- disclose any of your personal or medical information to your contacts
- ask about protected characteristics that are irrelevant to the needs of test and trace Version 4 – issued 23rd September 2020
- provide medical advice on the treatment of any potential coronavirus symptoms
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS