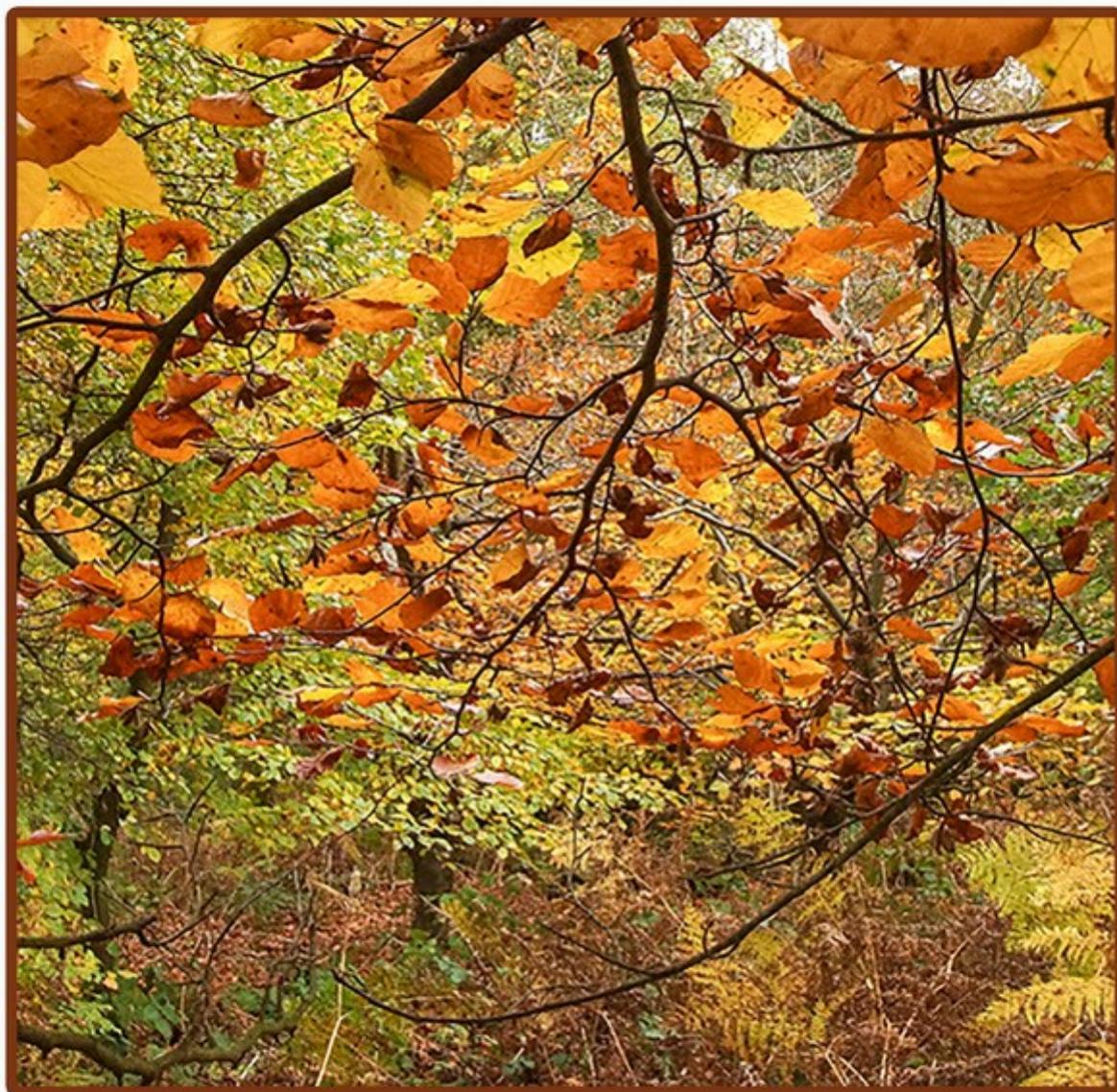


*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles' with St Mary*



November 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

Fr Rod writes

As I come, hopefully, near to the end of my curacy, one of the questions I shall be asked at assessment is 'have you read any good books lately', or more pointedly, 'what theological/Spiritual/Christian books have you read, been challenged by recently.'

I am like you, no doubt, challenged by recent events. There are many people around us looking to explain the pandemic, and/or, ask the question, why has God allowed this to happen to us?

Is God punishing us? Is the answer to repent and God will step in? Are we at the end of days?

If we look back through history, there has been many a pandemic, the Black Plague of Middle Ages, Spanish Flu of 1918 to name a couple. There have been wars that have claimed millions of innocent lives, some continue to this day.

Back to my reading.

Tom Wright has written a book, recently called 'God and the Pandemic'. The other I'm reading is called, 'Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality'. Both books tackle what seems to be, completely different subjects, but I find, have a theme that unites them. It is the attentiveness to 'NOW'.

Spirituality focused on and around God in Christ, requires us to be 'present' to Him. In doing so we open up the possibility of His redemption, His mercy and His grace. Mindfulness requires us to live in the moment, that is today, not yesterday or tomorrow. This is a theme expressed in the Bible summed up perfectly in Matthew 6; '*don't worry about tomorrow, what you will wear or eat, today has enough problems of its own*' (to paraphrase).

Tom Wright's book adds to this saying, amongst other things, that God gave Jesus His son, to die upon the cross as the one perfect sacrifice that has redeemed humankind once, and for all time. In other words, we ARE forgiven, we are not, and have not been punished, by God since that one momentous event.

The media, for some reason, want us to live in a permanent state of fear and anxiety about what disaster tomorrow may bring. WE, must trust in God's beneficence of NOW, in His all encompassing love for us. The past is gone, the future we do not know. Living in the present and being attentive to God's presence, we will find peace in a world In turmoil. As a disciple of Christ Jesus, do His bidding; spread the word, good news for all.

Many blessings

Fr Rod

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.

House of Good

Church buildings are so much more than places of worship.

'House of Good report' by the National Churches Trust 2020

From foodbanks to credit unions, churches across the UK provide a growing list of essential services for people in urgent need.

We've long seen the power of churches to bring communities together and help them thrive. But we've never been able to measure it.

For the very first time, our House of Good report quantifies the economic and social value of all church buildings to the UK. Not just the bricks and mortar but the welfare and wellbeing they create in our communities.

Our ground-breaking report demonstrates that the total economic and social value that church buildings generate in the UK is at least £12.4 billion per year which averages around £300,000 per church. That is roughly equal to the total NHS spending on mental health in England in 2018.

We believe that these findings are remarkable. They show that our churches are not just Houses of God. They are also Houses of Good – good that we risk losing if church buildings are not kept in good repair, and may never be able to replace.

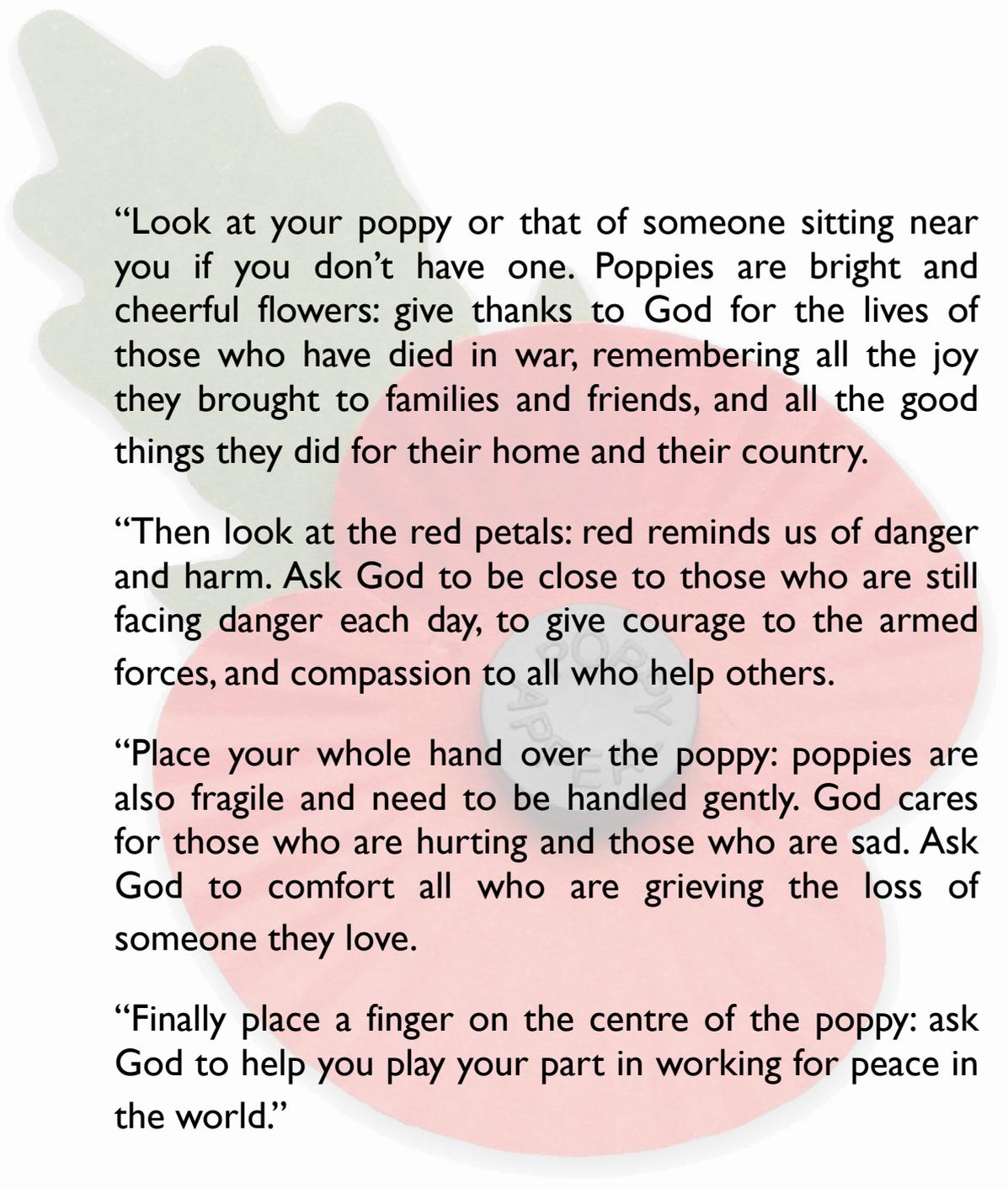
A link to the full report is here:

<https://www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/House-of-Good-AW-digital-small.pdf>

We give thanks for the volunteers who work in and also out of St Giles to ensure that we play our part in being not just a 'House of God' but also a 'House of Good' in our community.



The Poppy



“Look at your poppy or that of someone sitting near you if you don’t have one. Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers: give thanks to God for the lives of those who have died in war, remembering all the joy they brought to families and friends, and all the good things they did for their home and their country.

“Then look at the red petals: red reminds us of danger and harm. Ask God to be close to those who are still facing danger each day, to give courage to the armed forces, and compassion to all who help others.

“Place your whole hand over the poppy: poppies are also fragile and need to be handled gently. God cares for those who are hurting and those who are sad. Ask God to comfort all who are grieving the loss of someone they love.

“Finally place a finger on the centre of the poppy: ask God to help you play your part in working for peace in the world.”

The Revd Canon Sandra Millar

Priory Gardens

Nestled in the popular town of Pontefract in West Yorkshire, Priory Gardens is a lovely, purpose-built care home offering residential, nursing and residential memory care for those living with dementia.

Our welcoming care home offers a home-from-home where older people receive the care they need and the support they want to continue to live their life with dignity and choice.

- Comfortable day rooms
- 9.6 carehome.co.uk user rating
- Beauty salon
- Little break – Short term care
- Home from home – Long term care
- Overall 'Good' CQC rating

To find out more information on the care that both homes can offer you, or your loved one, please visit our website or contact our Home Manager, Tamsin Ryan.



W hc-one.co.uk
T 0333 999 8603
E careline@hc-one.co.uk
A Ladybalk Lane, Pontefract,
West Yorkshire, WF8 1JQ

Prayers reflecting Generally on Loss and Sorrow

A Prayer for Strength in Sorrow

**God, our friend and companion,
we thank you that you travel with us through dark times.
We bring you our feelings trusting that you accept us just as we
are.
We bring you our thoughts and questions,
asking you to help us find peace of mind.
We bring you our hurts and pains,
knowing that you are a God who can heal.
Give us the strength to keep travelling forward
until we step out into the sunlight again.
Amen.**

Prayers in Difficult Times

**God of all wisdom,
We can't always understand what is happening around us,
Or see you at work in difficult times,
But we choose to trust in you.
Please grant us understanding.
Through Jesus Christ our teacher and our Lord.
Amen.**

**God of the wilderness,
We are not always sure how to endure these testing times,
Or where to find nourishment for our souls,
But we choose to trust in you.
Please grant us refreshment.**

**God of all strength,
We don't always have the capacity to keep going,
Or the ability to see a way through,
But we choose to trust in you.
Please grant us perseverance.
Through Jesus Christ our teacher and our Lord.
Amen.**

Questioning Prayer

When the question is “Why?”
When the question is “Where?”
When the question is “When?”
When the question is “How?”
When my answer is “Yes!”
Amen.

Be the voice that I hear.
Be the guidance I need.
Be the wisdom I seek.
Be the strength I require.
Be the peace that I feel.

From Rebuilding Community, Jane Whittington, Diocese of Guildford

Accompanying Others

God of all compassion and healing,
We pray today for those who have lost loved ones:
May they know your loving presence as they travel through the
varied landscapes of grief.
In their pain and sadness, surround them with your comfort;
In their anger and bewilderment, speak words of peace;
In their anxiety and fear, help them feel safe again.
We give you thanks that you hold all of us in your love, wherever
we are on our journey through life.
In these difficult days, help us to travel together in friendship,
Trusting that you will lead us to the sunshine of new hope.
Amen.

Material prepared by the Bishop of Southwark's Advisory Group for Liturgy
All Saints-tide 2020

Children's Bible Quiz

Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. In what city was Jesus born?
2. How many books are in the New Testament?
3. What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?
4. Who were the first apostles called to follow Jesus?
5. How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves of bread and two fish?
6. After Jesus was arrested, which apostle disowned him three times?
7. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby?
8. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body after the crucifixion?
9. Paul was shipwrecked on what island?
10. What is the shortest book in the New Testament?
11. Who is the author of the Book of Revelation?
12. Matthew was a _____.
13. To what city was Saul traveling when he encountered a great and blinding light?
14. Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?
15. Finish this verse. "In every battle you will need faith as your _____ to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan."

1) Bethlehem 2) 27 3) Locusts 4) Peter & Andrew 5) About 5000 6) Peter 7) Simeon 8) Joseph of Arimathea 9) Malta 10) 2 John 11) John 12) Tax Collector 13) Damascus 14) Priest 15) Shield

A Stitch in Time



Alterations for all occasions

Sarah Brightmore
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Citizens Advice Wakefield District continue to offer a full range of advice and help during the lockdown period.

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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/

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

The Calendar and bookings will still be handled by

Bill Bradley e mail W.R.T.Bradley@btinternet.com



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Alison Knox

Tel: 07812-700301

Email: AJKlegalservices@gmail.com



AJK Legal Services
4 Fairways Court
Darrington
WF8 3DH

Services at St Giles'

As services continue 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.

- **MOBILE PHONES**—To avoid loss of signal when livestreaming the service, would you please either turn your phone off or put it onto 'Airplane Mode' in settings
- **FACE MASKS** – must be worn unless you are exempt
- **TEST AND TRACE** – Please give your details to the sidesperson or use the NHS 'Test and Trace' app
- **HAND HYGIENE** – Please sanitise on entry and exit and before receiving communion
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING** – The 2 metres rule to be followed, or if not possible 1 metre plus with mitigations
- **SEATING ARRANGEMENTS** – You will be seated in appropriate seats by the sidespeople
- **SERVICE SHEETS** – Please take home with you
- **MUSIC, SINGING AND RESPONSES** - Singing is not currently permitted for congregations. A small choral group is permitted. All responses will be said using a quiet voice
- **THE PEACE** – please only share by a smile or wave
- **RECEIVING COMMUNION** – The sidespeople will direct you. Please sanitise your hands as directed. When you reach the priest, please remove your mask and stretch out your hands.

- **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. Mingling amongst groups is not permitted by law indoors and outdoors. Rule of six applies.
- **FOOD AND DRINK** – sadly, there can be no refreshments available after the service.
- **LIGHTING OF CANDLES** – can be done after the service.
- **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** – please place onto the plate near the exit door.

Thank you for bearing with these precautions, which may change...

Services at St Giles' and St Mary's

At the moment the 10:15 Eucharist will continue every Sunday throughout October and there will be a Said Mass every Wednesday morning at 9:30.

Both these services will be live in church and also streamed live on the St Giles' Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract>

It is hoped to have a Said Mass at St Mary's at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday November 15th.

Please note that the services listed on page 22 are our normal services pre-covid and are not, at the moment, all taking place.

For up-to-date information please visit the church's website -

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/>

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The Restoration of the Bells

We are very lucky in St Giles' to have ten wonderful bells that were cast by the famous foundry John Taylor & Co in 1920, so they are exactly 100 years old. In a recent poll on the "Bellringers" facebook group they were voted to be one of the top eight rings with ten bells in the country. I have been ringing here at St Giles' since 1995 and in those 25 years very little maintenance has been needed but, like anything, a little bit of care and attention now can save much bigger problems in the future.



In 2018 we started looking to see what was needed and who could do the work. Luckily there are few moving parts involved, with the bells swinging from bearings that are bolted to the bell frame. The only other moving parts are the clappers that hit the bell and some wooden rollers that guide the ropes coming up from the ringing room below. Having had three different firms out to inspect our bells it was decided to have the bearings refurbished, the bushes that hold the clappers in place replaced and some of the rollers replaced. In July this year Tom Blythe from TLB services started the work and took the items for refurbishment or replacement from our tower to his workshop in Newark. When he opened the bearings he found they all needed replacing instead of a simple refurbishment. If you look carefully at the photo above you will see a significant amount of grit on the

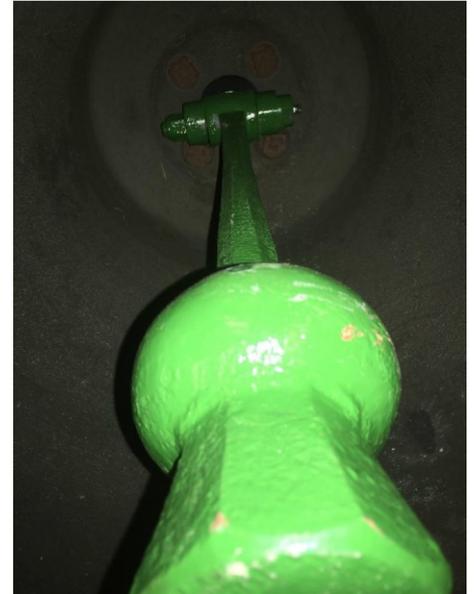


bell frame. This grit apparently made its way into the bearings causing them to wear beyond the point that they could be repaired. This is a shame as they were stamped "W/O" for "War Office" and I would like to keep the installation as original as possible but there was no alternative. TLB services returned in September to fit the new bearings and the newly painted clappers with their new bushes into the tower. I am happy to report that even though it was not as straightforward as first thought, the bells are now in great condition and should not need any more major work for the next 25 years.

The bellringers would like to thank the PCC for their support in seeing this project through and special thanks go to Peter Lavine for all his hard work coordinating all the parties involved and not least for coming to church everyday to open it for the bell hangers and close it after they left for the day. Thanks also go to The Yorkshire Association of Bell Ringers for their grant of £2000 towards the cost of the work.

We are always happy to welcome people to the tower, so if you want to know more about the work that has been done or if you are interested in learning to ring bells please speak to Adrian Garner [07790 956257].

In these COVID times the number of people in the tower is restricted so the bells will not sound at their best for some time to come but we are working on a full peal in April 2021 to mark the 100th anniversary of the first peal on this grand ring of ten bells.



The Bells!!!

After the work on the bells was completed, the bell ringers were pleased to be able to welcome the congregation to Sunday services.

The Pontefract area is now in Tier 2 restrictions, and the central council of church bell ringers advises that bells are not rung in tiers 2 and 3.

It is still permissible for a solo ringer to ring in the tower and this will continue in the immediate term. So apologies for the quieter reception to church – the ringers will miss providing the service in a fuller way.

The Bell Ringers

My connections with St Giles

I thought I would send you photo of my ordination on 4 October as Deacon. Revd June invited me to share my connections with St Giles' and my fondest memories. Your church was where I took my first faith journey steps and major milestones in my formative years. St Giles' is my family's church, it is where I was married in St Giles' in 1998, my parents and others in the family were also married there, countless baptisms, including mine and family funerals in recent years.



I first came to church (8 O'clock) with my Mum, Pam Harper in 1984 when I was 9 years old. My Gran, Edna Hodgson also attended 8 O'clock for many, many years. I was confirmed at aged 11 and served at 8 O'clock until I left for University in 1993. I used to attend Midnight Mass with my Dad, Melvyn Harper for many years.



I was part of the Giles' group (teenagers) who met at the vicarage once a month, the first Sunday, if I recall. We fund raised to sponsor a child in Africa for a number of years. We were given the 5th Saturday coffee mornings to fundraise.

As a youth group we had annual, last Thursday in August, Scarborough day trips from Bag Hill train station, (before it became the test centre.) Our leaders were, Fr Godfrey and Pam Mercer. As I recall it was fun on the South beach, a packed lunch and a walk into the town and then cricket on the beach and fish and chips before getting the train home.

In 1992 I was invited to join Archbishop George Carey's 1992 Taizé pilgrimage, which was the first of four pilgrimages I have made to Taizé. The

first time I was given a sermon slot was when I gave a report of my pilgrimage, I think it was both at 8 O'clock and the main service, however, it might have only been 8 O'clock. As part of my journey to ordination I joined St Giles' with Fr Bob for a three month placement in 2016, where I made many new friends and shocked a few faces from my teenage years, (you know who you are, no names here).



Knowing the church so well before and then after the reordering made me reflect on how different a well loved place of prayer can feel. The first time I popped in after the reordering I left like it was a completely different church. When I served there every Sunday it was the only church I really knew. I have worshipped in many churches since



in Hull, Liverpool and Rothwell, however, St Giles' will always have a special place in my heart. I remember Fr Godfrey told me once that he used to pray for the drivers on the M62, particularly the lorry drivers when he was out walking. I do the same now as I live only two fields from the motorway in south Leeds.

I am now the Curate at St John the Baptist church in Wakefield, which Revd June knows well. I pray for you all and best wishes in what is becoming a very strange year.

Best wishes.

Revd Rob Harper

Quote

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou

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.

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 and stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com

in case one or other is on holiday etc.

The last date for items for November's magazine is **Sunday November 22nd**.

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

Funerals in October

Brian Flanagan

“May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”

Year's mind. We give thanks for the lives of:- **Nov 3** Marjorie Mildred Schofield, Eric Taylor, **4** Tony Townsend, **6** Frank Roberts, **7** Martyn Heighton **8** Ian Sanderson, **9** George Eric Burgess, Fanny Roydhouse, **10** Mary Walker, **13** David Fielder, **17** John Roger Sessford, **22** Eric Tonks, **26** Gordon Leng Johnson, Dorothy Sessford.

*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
01/11/20 All Saints Day	10.15 am. Eucharist	<p>Our services are thankfully once again taking place in Church and simultaneously streamed on</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/</p> <p>Eucharist on Sunday at 10:15 a.m. and Said Mass on Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m.</p>				
02/11/20 All Souls Day	7.00 pm. Eucharist					
08/11/20 Remembrance Day	9.30 am. Eucharist					
15/11/20 Second before Advent	10.15 am. Eucharist					
22/11/20 Christ the King	10.15 am. Eucharist					
29/11/20 Advent Sunday	10.15 am. Eucharist					

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings
01/11/20 All Saints Day	<p>Here are the readings for the Sunday services in September</p>				I John 3.1-3, Matthew 5.1-12
02/11/20 All Souls Day					I Peter 1.3-9 John 6.37-40
08/11/20 Remembrance Day					I Thessalonians 4.13-end, Matthew 25.1-13
15/11/20 Second before Advent					I Thessalonians 5.1-11, Matthew 25.14-30
22/11/20 Christ the King					Ephesians 1.15-end, Matthew 25.31-end
29/11/20 Advent Sunday					Isaiah 64.1-9, I Corinthians 1.3-9, Mark 13.24-37

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

For service times during the present restrictions please visit our website and view the latest Newsletter

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/weekly-notice-2/>

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	Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary Janet Colvill/Marjorie Laidlaw	704864/795748
PCC Vice Chairman Barbara Sessford	699058	Children's Society Box Secretary Angela Bradley	613643
Churchwardens Bruce Dalglish	07809760993	Missions Committee Secretary Edith Barber	277226
Barbara Sessford	699058	Pro-Wardens at St Mary's Frank Ward	
Peter Lavine	799929	St Mary's Church Secretary Ann Harris	707056
Pam Mercer	795130	St Mary's Church Treasurer Delia Perrett	796223
PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator Vivienne Smales	790448	David Leigh	706526
stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com		St Mary's Church Meeting Chair David Brooks	798599
PCC Treasurer David Leigh	706526	St Mary's Community Centre Manager: Denise Pallett	705341
Organist and Choir Director James MacDonald	790448	St Giles' Church School (aided) Head teacher: Richard Grace	794175
Tower Captain Adrian Garner	690154	St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair Andy Weston	07791 656820
Parish Magazine Editor Bruce Dalglish	690216	St Giles' Tiddlywinks (pre school) Barbara Lavine	799929
St Giles' Altar Flowers Barbara Chessman	700559	Sheila Roydhouse	793045

A Short Liturgy of Lament

A brief prayer and liturgy which can be used individually in the home, intended to be a quiet moment of stillness and reflection, and offering a simple language of lament.

A candle is lit

Gracious God:
you are the love that created the world;
you are the light which shines in the dark;
you are the one who is here with me now.

A brief silence is kept

Holy God:
there are times when we cannot feel your love;
times when we struggle to see your light,
times when you seem absent and we feel empty.

The candle is extinguished: we watch the smoke dissipate

Loving God:
where the pain is raw, send relief;
when fear paralyses, pour out peace;
where anger festers, have mercy;
when doubts overwhelm, hold us fast.
Amen.



St Giles' Guide Book



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