

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles' with St Mary*



December 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..

I'm writing this letter during lockdown 2 and wondering whether, when you read it, I will be planning our return to public worship! It is hard to know, and that has been a theme for so much of this year. All of us have lived with 'uncertainty' amidst a lot of 'certainty' when we have known what we can or can't do because the government have set out pandemic permissions and restrictions (not always clearly, but who would want to be in their shoes..).

Living our lives in the usual ways has been curtailed. And we have found that hard to bear. We understand, but it doesn't stop us being frustrated, sad and at times downcast at what we have missed most.

Members of our church family have lost loved ones this year and the pain of that loss has been compounded by not being able to have all family and friends at their funeral, or being together celebrating a loved one's life at the traditional 'funeral tea'. 'Blessed are those who mourn...' We have held them in our thoughts and prayers.

The Advent season reminds us that Christmas is 'a comin'', as yet it is still difficult to plan what our services might look like and how we might be present together: physically, virtually, singing carols, or not...

We will celebrate our Lord's birth in whatever way is possible for us: Things 'not going to plan', amidst things "going to plan" was of course the order of the day in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

A creative person, I'm sure, could take the following elements and tell the nativity using the backdrop of a pandemic. **

- How might the angel Gabriel have spoken with Mary, would she have been summoned to an angelic Zoom call, or WhatsApp, or facetime!

- Mary and Elizabeth could only have met if they were part of the same 'bubble', though an outdoor walk in the park would have been ok at present.
- Might the census have been cancelled?
- Would Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem be seen as 'essential travel' and if so, would they have found the inns shut? If they were travelling for work then a bed would be available, but not the restaurant and bar? If as many scholars think, they were really staying in a family guest room, then that definitely would have been a 'shut door.'
- We don't know if someone attended the birth to support Mary as was customary in those days, but if they had, they would have worn a mask.
- Hopefully the shepherds, being outdoor workers, would have been fine to work on the hillside, no need to socially distance from the sheep, but probably not able to visit at the birth.
- Would the star have shined more brightly in the sky due to less pollution?
- The wise men certainly wouldn't have been travelling 'from afar' definitely not from Scotland or Wales. Coming from further afield, would they have missed Mary and Joseph at the inn, if they had flown in and had to quarantine for two weeks! If really they came two years later as scholars believe, then would the pandemic still be around in some way affecting their journeying?

The story as we know it would have been different, because the realities of history are the wrappers in which the Christmas message is packaged. St Paul feels that the essential element is contained in one thought: 'But when the fulness of time had come, God sent his son, born of a woman.' (Galatians 4.4). He makes no other reference to the nativity story 'packaging.'

St John likewise foregoes the usual details, the traditional 'packaging', in order to come to the same conclusion, 'And the world became flesh and lived among us.' What more needs to be said?

Political oppression then and a pandemic now can't prevent the Christmas message from bursting out afresh with joy and hope for a troubled world. Emmanuel 'God with us' spoken to people enduring turbulent times two thousand years ago is the message we take afresh into our lives amidst the tribulations and turbulence of our today. We test its veracity through our experience. Lived truth is the truth that generally matters.

Canon June

** - See page 23

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.

Over £32m has been raised for good causes through the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

One of the good causes registered on the site is the St Giles' Community Project established at the time of the start of the internal alterations carried out in 2011 – 13 since when it has raised £429.08 by just 11 members of the congregation who have used the site occasionally when online shopping.

During the current challenging time it is extremely difficult and in some cases impossible to carry out our church fundraising events. At this time of year St Giles and St Mary's would normally benefit from the Christmas Draw (£1244.10 in 2019) which unfortunately has had to be cancelled. As an alternative, if you are shopping on line for Christmas presents or indeed anything at all, please remember to use the following website to raise donations for the church.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgilescp/>

Easyfundraising has over 4,000 shops and sites which will donate to us at no extra cost to yourself, including lots of big name retailers like John Lewis, Argos, Currys/PC World, Amazon, eBay, M&S, Just Eat, Domino's Pizza, Debenhams, Screwfix, Wilko.com. All you have to do is go through the easyfundraising website or App whenever you shop online and the church will receive a % of your spend as a free donation, at no cost to you or us.

Happy Shopping!

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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.

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Right now in Britain there are children and young people who are experiencing neglect, abuse, bullying, homelessness, or challenges with their mental health.

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When young people have hope in their lives, they feel happier, better prepared and more able to make choices about their future to fulfil their potential. **That's why we're asking you to Give Hope, and share a gift with young people. Every Give Hope gift you buy will fund a similar gift for a child in need.**

Simply visit givehope.uk and you can choose whether to give to a child in Birmingham, Essex, Newcastle, Nottingham, Yorkshire or where the need is greatest.

Our front line workers have selected each present for its ability to make a vital difference to a vulnerable child - particularly in these challenging times.

THANK YOU

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Remembrance Sunday 2020

Covid restrictions obviously reduced the number of people who were allowed to attend our annual Remembrance Sunday parade at the War Memorial, but this did not prevent those representing us from confirming “We will remember them”.



The Children's Society - Home Boxes

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions the "Bringing-In Day" and street collection during April could not take place and as a consequence your home box may be getting full and rather weighty. Should you wish for your box to be emptied please follow the procedure below which is based on advice received from The Children's Society.

Put the box in a plastic bag and hand it directly to me. I will then leave it for 72 hours before dealing with it. I will then sanitise the box and return it to you in the same way. Please leave the box in the bag for 72 hours before using it again.

Alternatively, open the box yourself and put the money in a disposable container in a bag and hand it to me. This avoids my contact with the box.

It is also advised that you ring me to arrange receipt of the money so that no-one else is involved and the box is not stored in the church safe.

Thank you

Angela
Tel. 01977 613643

Advent Windows



Each week the readings at our Sunday services offer a window into the message of Christmas. What do you hear in the Bible readings that open up its meaning afresh for you? This Advent let us listen more carefully and expect God's word to enter our hearts and homes with words of comfort and joy.

Light Up the district this Christmas!

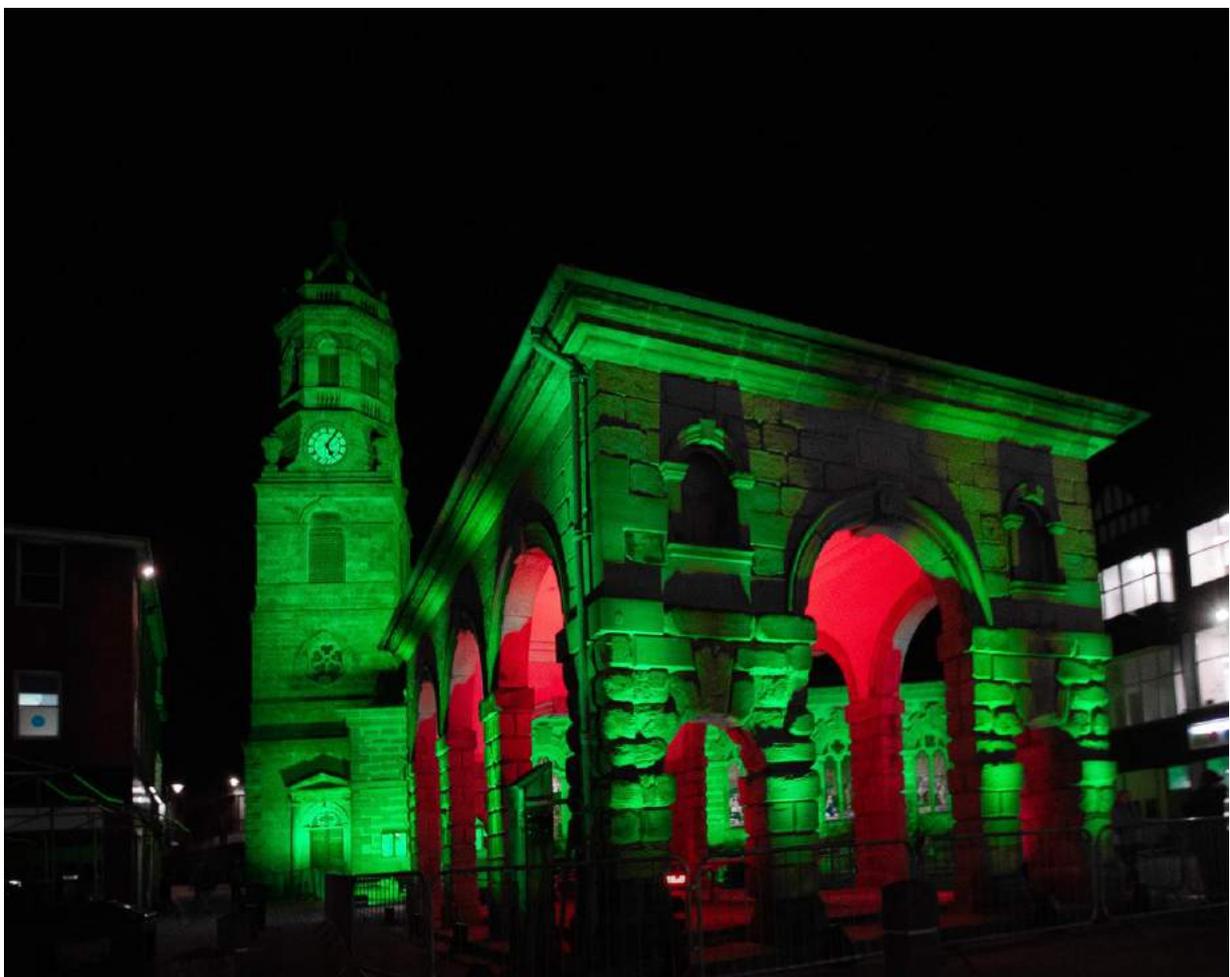
This winter, Wakefield Council and partners will be lighting up buildings across the district as part of #LightUp - a new celebration of light-inspired activities and initiatives, to accompany the normal Christmas Lights.

Even though the usual switch on events won't take place this year, the Christmas lights will still shine bright across the district. As part of the Light Up programme, a number of the district's buildings will be lit up over different evenings.

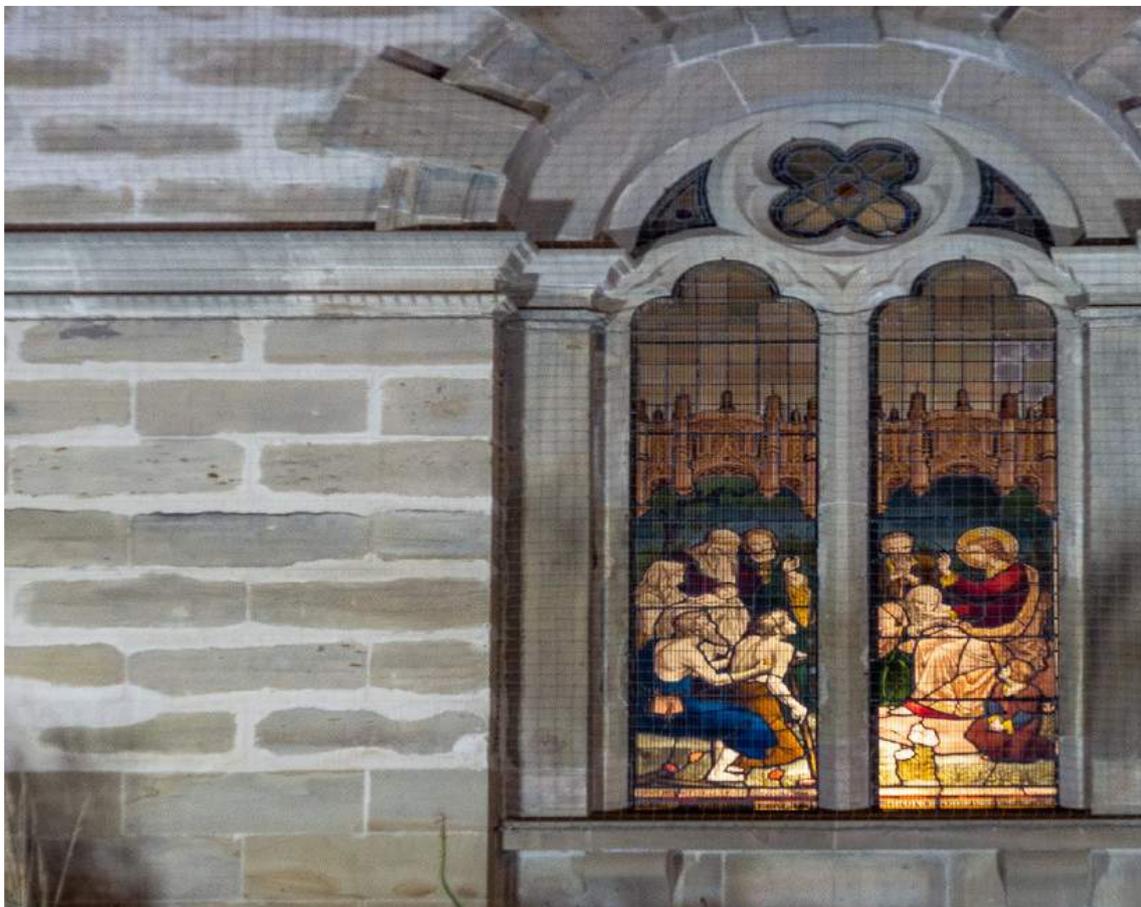
These Light Ups should be enjoyed online, allowing everyone to take part, but can also be viewed by residents attending their normal essential shopping or physical activity, and those still attending school and work during this period.

Local residents are also being invited to Light Up their own homes, businesses and communities and share these pictures online throughout November, December and January, using #LightUp.

Below and on the next two pages you can see how this was achieved at St Giles'.







Photographs by Bruce Dalglish



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

We can help with benefits claims including advice and support on setting up claims for Universal Credit; we can help you deal with debts and give advice if your employment has been affected.

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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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Do you know that 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse?

St. Giles Mothers' Union supports the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence which is an international campaign**. It takes place each year from **25 November** (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until **10 December** (International Human Rights Day).

Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with around 6,000 organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in the campaign, to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. Mothers' Union works alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, every day of the year.

As part of the campaign this year the Mothers' Union will be holding their first Global Day on 5th December, which is centred around the disturbing figure that "1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse" and that Mothers' Union, as a leading women's organisation, believe this to be unacceptable.

What is Gender-Based Violence?

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is any act of violence or abuse which is directed at an individual or group on the basis of their gender. However, it has been widely acknowledged that the majority of persons affected by gender-based violence are women and girls, as a result of unequal distribution of power in society between women and men.
- "Violence against women" is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women.
- It is rooted in unequal power relationships between men and women, and the underlying beliefs and values which accompany this,

often manifesting as a means of control.

- Gender-based violence occurs in every culture and context around the world.
- In the year ending March 2019, in the UK and Ireland, 2.4 million adults aged 16 to 59 had experienced domestic abuse within the last year. This year as a result of the necessary Covid 19 restrictions that figure has increased substantially.

MU has made a formal submission to the House of Commons Scrutiny Committee of the Domestic Abuse Bill in July, and this Bill will be progressing to the House of Lords towards the end of September.

You might like to email our MP, Yvette Cooper coopery@parliament.uk and ask her to support laws that prohibit all forms of violence against women and girls. Currently there is a Bill going through Parliament which will do this.

A Prayer for victims of gender-based violence

Lord of justice and mercy,
who has called us to be the body of Christ,
we offer up our prayers for those who
are affected by gender-based violence
and as a sign of our unity with all who
campaign for justice across the world. Amen

Bottle Stall -

A big thank you to all who donated bottles for the stall and those who supported us on the day. £130 was raised for Church funds

Thank you again.

Marjorie & Pat

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A 2020 Nativity....

Mary was sitting in her garden with a cup of tea and a slice of homemade banana bread. She had finished her lockdown chores and had even squeezed in a quick Joe Wicks PE session so she had a little bit of free time before her Microsoft Teams meeting at 11.

As she sat, suddenly there was an angel standing 2 metres away (he didn't have a mask on but that was okay, as they were outside). The angel told her she was to have a baby. He would be God's son, a light for all the people of the world, and she was to call him Jesus. Mary was a little confused at first, but then everything is a bit confusing at the moment. She wondered if this was fake news, but with a bit of Googling and a lot of praying, she realised that this really was God's plan. And so, she said 'Yes'. She had to tell her fiancé, Joseph, though, and he was not best pleased – at least not until the angel paid him a visit too. “Don't worry” Joseph said to Mary. “We can bring the wedding forward – after all, the banns have already been read. We'll need to cut down the guest list – but we can livestream the service to everyone else on Facebook”.

A few months went by, lockdown was eased a little and then tightened again, and it was almost time for the baby to be born. The Prime Minister said that Mary and Joseph needed to go to Bethlehem to be counted (even though, last week, the PM had also said they shouldn't make unnecessary journeys, which confused them a little). They wondered and wondered and wondered what to do – but they knew that if they didn't get counted, they wouldn't be able to get Universal Credit, and with the carpentry business struggling, they really needed the help. So, they agreed, reluctantly, to go – even though Bethlehem was in a higher tier than Nazareth. They decided they would be safer if they avoided public transport, so they went by donkey instead. If anyone stopped them, they would say they were doing their daily allotted exercise.

When they got to Bethlehem, it was busier than they expected for a little town in lockdown. No wonder the 'R number' was so much higher here than at home! They tried to find somewhere to stay, but it was

hopeless. The first inn they came to had closed, and all the staff had been furloughed. The second inn was open, but only for takeaways, which needed to be pre-booked online and collected from the car park at a set time. They were really tired as they approached the final inn in town. 'We are open' said the innkeeper 'but we're full of keyworkers who are away from their families'. Mary was close to tears she was so tired, and the innkeeper noticed her eyes filling up. 'But I can see how tired you are' he continued. 'How about the garage round the back? It'll be quiet, and you'll be safe for the night'.

And so Mary and Joseph (and, of course, the donkey) settled down for the night. And, in the middle of the night, the baby was born – which meant that Joseph could be there, which was good. He couldn't have been there, could he, on a maternity ward? And at least the garage was Covid Secure. They called the baby 'Jesus' just as the angel had said, and they placed him in a wooden crate, wrapped in a blanket.

There were some shepherds in the fields nearby, watching their sheep (after all, they couldn't work from home, could they?) They'd been in a bubble since the second lockdown began and were watching "I'm a Celebrity" on their phones with a wry smile – they knew just how cold hillsides could get at night at this time of year. All of a sudden, a heavenly host appeared, singing. Well, not quite a host – more a heavenly trio, standing 1 metre plus (with mitigations). And not quite singing, either – more of a muted humming behind their visors. The shepherds were used to hearing things from across the fields, though, so they had no problem making out what the angels were 'singing'. A baby had been born – he would be their King - and they could 'meet' him on Zoom. After a bit of a tussle with their rural broadband, they managed to connect. They could see the baby king, but they couldn't hear anything - and they weren't sure whether you could tell a king's mum that she was on mute!! It was soon all sorted out, and they were able to sing to the new baby (because you can still sing on Zoom). How amazing was that! Then they Zoom-waved goodbye (for quite a long time) and left the meeting.

Quite a long way away – not part of the travel corridor – there were three kings. A star had told them about the king (the angels would have had to spend too long in quarantine if they'd gone there). They made the journey

to Bethlehem, too, walking at a safe distance from one another, only stopping for the occasional Greggs' vegan sausage roll. They didn't want to travel by camel (camels had been super spreaders of MERS virus a few years ago, and so the kings thought they'd better be safe than sorry). Llamas were a wonderful replacement, though - everyone loves llamas!

When they got to Bethlehem, they found the garage. They sanitised, scanned the Test & Trace QR code on their apps and – one at a time – were able to go and meet the new baby, Jesus, who was safely tucked up behind a Perspex screen. They texted Joseph, the Hermes tracking code for their gifts (these were due to arrive in a couple of days, and would need to be left for 72 hours before opening). Finally, they bowed down before Jesus and said goodbye. Then they each whipped out a handy pack of antibacterial wipes to make the garage door handle safe for the next visitor.

And the baby? He smiled, yawned and went straight back to sleep. Because that's what babies do.

(Of course, some of the details would be different if Jesus was born this Christmas, not in the 1st Century. But the truth of Christmas - the importance of Christmas - is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow: A heavenly king - born into our earthly mess. A shepherd king – for kings and for shepherds. An eternal king – promising eternal life for each of us. May the peace of the Christ child be yours, this Christmas and always.

(Written by Rachel Dale)

NOTES FROM THE PCC MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2020

Canon June Lawson chaired the meeting held via Zoom with 14 members present and 3 apologies

Appointment of PCC officers, including sidespeople, took place, with the following appointments being made:

Vice Chair & Disability Officer:	Barbara Sessford
Electoral Roll Officer:	Bevil Edwards
Environmental Officer:	Sonia Atkin
Health & Safety Officer:	Peter Lavine
PCC Secretary:	Vivienne Smales
Safeguarding Officer:	Karen MacDonald
Treasurer:	David Leigh

At the **APCM held on Sunday, 4 October** three wardens were appointed to four vacancies. **Bruce Dalgleish** was welcomed as a new churchwarden, working alongside **Peter Lavine and Pam Mercer**. A resolution was put through to move away from the 6-year rule which gives more flexibility to appointing churchwardens. In order to lessen the burden on the three churchwardens **Barbara Sessford** has now offered to stand as a Deputy warden for one year. All present agreed to this role and appointment.

A table of parochial fees had previously been drawn up and agreed. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic a cleaning fee of £20 was to be added. All present agreed to this addition.

The **Treasurer's Report**, which included finance and staffing was discussed.

The last PCC update was sent out to members of the PCC by email on 21 July in the form of notes, rather than minutes. Consequently, there were no matters arising.

Confirmation has been received that, following his ordination next summer, **Sam Fletcher**, will be joining the Parish as a **full-time curate**.

A short **Safeguarding** report was submitted.

Karen MacDonald was previously appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer and she has now completed two courses online. The **Diocesan Safeguarding Office** has undergone restructuring and all staff work across the whole diocese on a caseload provision.

A report had previously been circulated, noting that the work on the bells has now been completed. An additional cost of £1700 had been incurred due to work on the bearings, which were worn out and completely replaced. A contribution from the Bellringers' Fund will be sought to help cover this. Work on the South Nave Roof has been delayed until the spring to avoid any potential bad weather. The original estimate will be held.

A **Risk Assessment** is regularly updated and covers the basis of reopening the church. It is updated every time the Government makes changes. Any groups wishing to return are asked to supply a risk assessment to work in conjunction with ours. A second document, the 'green' document relates to issues within the centre and church life. Both documents ensure we can be as responsible as possible and thanks were given to the Standing Committee for the work given to this document.

When the CCTV system was installed in the church there was no GDPR. This now requires us to have a **CCTV policy** (circulated prior to the meeting), which was agreed and accepted.

St Giles' Standing Committee Minutes were previously circulated from meetings held on 28 July, 19 August and 8 September. A request had been received from the Director of Music for a Choral Scholar and this had been agreed. The scholar is to receive a small bursary and has already attended church services. It was felt that the church should invest in young people for the future.

St Giles' Centre Management Committee Minutes had previously been circulated from a meeting held on 10 September. The Centre had been successful in securing a £5K grant for loss of income. A grant application had also been submitted to NOVA for costs incurred in reopening the centre. This was successful and will, alongside providing money for signage and sanitisation, and additional staffing costs, allow Citizen's Advice to resume their weekly support sessions.

A report was also submitted for the **Foodbank and Foodshare projects**. Paul and Ann Harris have been running the 'feeding the families' programme during the summer with volunteers delivering the food fortnightly. The 6-month let on a shop at No.6 The Circle was due to finish at the end of September but the opportunity arose to extend this for 12-months. A £10K small business grant has been secured. Additional insurance costs incurred by the church will be covered by the grant.

Chair's Notes - A sheet of future meeting dates was circulated to all; services continue to be under review as there may come a point when there are too many in the congregation for the 10.15am service. The service currently runs with about 10 people under the maximum number of 65. Wednesday services continue with approximately 19 people; the decision has been taken not to resume the 8.00am service and the Friday service will not resume until the New Year at the earliest; a monthly Mass at St Mary's will be trialled on 18th October and reviewed again for November and December; a monthly Evensong will take place online with the first service on 18th October; the choir will be in church to sing.

All Souls Day falls on a Monday; an All Souls Mass will be held at 7.00pm on Monday, 2 November. People will be asked to let us know if they are attending and the names of loved ones they wish remembered. The service will also be online.

A **Remembrance Mass** will be held in St Giles at **9.30am on 8th November**, but there will be no civic service. JL and a small number of dignitaries will return to St Giles for the formal laying up of the Burma Star flag; the choir will sing during the laying up service.

Events for Christmas remain under review.

JL gave grateful thanks to Bruce Dalglish for all the work he did on the video produced for Heritage Week which is now on the church website.

There was no other business.

National Christingle Service online from The Children's Society

Sunday 13th December



You're invited to a special Christingle. Shining the light together.

We know Christingle won't look or feel the same this year, but there's no reason why it can't be bigger and brighter than ever. Join us this year for an online family Christingle service in collaboration with The Church of England. This will be a joyful celebration that brings people together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. The service will include a few words from HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, The Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as our Vice-Chair of Trustees the Bishop of Derby Libby Lane, the Bishop of Dover, soprano singer Joanna Forest and young people lighting the Christingles. It is set to be a special service.

This service will be hosted on The Church of England's Facebook and YouTube channels. The link, downloadable Order of Service and how you can participate in the Christingle making will be shared in the week leading up to the service.

Stained Glass Windows and the Royal Mail

A stunning stained glass window in one of our churches is featured on one of the Royal Mail's new Christmas stamps.

This year's £1.70 stamp features a section of the South Transept window at Otley All Saints' Parish Church.

The window at All Saints' was installed in 1862 and shows the Nativity on the lower tier and the Crucifixion on the upper tier. The section featured on the Royal Mail stamp shows the Virgin Mary sitting with the baby Jesus on her lap.



Vicar of All Saints', Rev Graham Buttanshaw said: "I'm delighted that our Nativity window will be on Royal Mail's Christmas stamps this year. We are seeing and hearing so many dark and troubling stories in the current crisis. Nobody's story is pain-free.

May many find hope in the 'big story' of Christmas, in which the baby Jesus makes God's love known.

Good news - a vulnerable baby born in the Middle East, who became a refugee, grew up to save us all."

Philip Parker, from Royal Mail, added: "Our beautiful Christmas stamps feature the Nativity as told through the artistry of different styles of stained-glass windows."

The other stamps in the 2020 Christmas collection come from churches in Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, and also in Norfolk, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire.

The stamps are on sale now and are available from Post Offices around the UK, 1,000 other retailers, or by visiting the Royal Mail website or calling 03457 641641.

The window at St Columba's Church in Topcliffe features on the £2.50 stamp, and was installed in circa 1860. Second class stamps will feature artwork from St Andrew's Church in East Lexham, Norfolk, while St Andrew's Church in Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire, will be on first class stamps.

The Royal Mail is also reminding people to post early for Christmas with the last recommended day for second class mail being December 18 and December 21 for first class.

Chris Tate

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 January's magazine is
Sunday December 20nd.

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

Funerals in November

Jonathan Marcus Worsley; John Thomas George;
Alfred David Martlew; Roger Sessford.

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

Year's mind We give thanks for the lives of:- **Dec 2** Arthur Thomas Hawkins, **4** Lorna Brooks, **6** Bernard Crossland, **8** Fr Roland Taylor, **14** Michael Barry Plumbley, **20** Bessie Walsh, **25** George Robert Hyomes, **29** Gordon David Bellamy, **30** David Atkins, **31** Reginald Gibbens.

*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	Bruce Dagleish	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
06/12/20 2nd Advent	10.15 am. Eucharist	<p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE NOTE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">These services will be taking place in St Giles' and will be live streamed on https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Information about the services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be available on the Church's website and notice sheet in the coming days, as more information is made available about the limitations over Christmas. http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/</p>				
13/12/20 3rd Advent	10.15 am. Eucharist					
20/12/20 4th Advent	10.15 am. Eucharist					
27/12/20 1st Christmas	10.15 am. Said Mass					
Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings	
06/12/20 2nd Advent	Here are the readings for the Sunday services in December				Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8	
13/12/20 3rd Advent				Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end 1 Thess 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28		
20/12/20 4th Advent				2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Romans 16.25-end Luke 1.26-38		
27/12/20 1st Christmas				1 John 1 John 21.19b-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

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

Comfort & Joy

The past year brought with it challenges we could never have envisaged; many have lost loved ones; many have lost their livelihoods and we have had to make significant changes to our

daily lives. We can no longer take for granted things we have previously, one thing that has remained constant throughout is God's love for us.

Comfort
and Joy



This year the Church of England have put together a booklet called “Comfort and Joy”, it is a collection of bible readings, words to familiar Christmas carols and reflections based on the traditional format of Nine Lessons and Carols. It offers us an opportunity to connect with each other from the comfort of our homes at a time when it is uncertain if we will be able to worship together in church. As in previous years, “Comfort and Joy”, begins on Christmas Day; the daily reflections have been written by Archbishops Justin Welby, Stephen Cottrell and several other familiar names.

We have copies of the booklet available now in church including some large print editions, alternatively there is an app for iPhone and Android which will be available for download from your usual app provider.

Please get in touch with Vivienne if you would like a copy and we will arrange to get it to you before Christmas if you are unable to collect it from church. You can email her on stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com or call the Parish Office 01977 790448.

Find out more about this and the nine weekly services which will be streamed by the Church of England throughout Advent and Christmas on the Church of England website.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy>

St Giles' Guide Book



On sale now
only £3