

*Parish of Pontefract  
St Giles' with St Mary*



*January 2021*

## 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-notices-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

Some articles in this magazine are reproduced, with permission, from the Website - <https://www.parishpump.co.uk/>

**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.

# PARISH OF PONTEFRACT

## St Giles' with St Mary

### Notes from a Reader.

Well I hope you have all had a very Happy Christmas, and I wish you all a Happy and prosperous New Year.

When I sit down to write these notes I always have music playing in the background. This time it was a CD of Leslie Garret and when she sang the aria 'Velia' from the Merry Widow I just had to stop and listen. As I sat there listening, memories came flooding back from the time I was the Stage Manager of Pontefract Operatic Society. I remembered the excitement of the opening night, how the lights would go down in the hall, a hush would descend on the audience, the conductor would raise his baton and the orchestra would break into the overture. Now, as you all know, the overture is a piece of music that comes before the show itself, and it is a piece of music that sets the scene. It also introduces the melodies and themes that will be further expanded and developed as the show goes on.

For me, the season of Advent is very much like an overture, with readings that set the scene and introduce the themes that will be expanded on and developed throughout the Church year. Out of all the four Gospels there is one which I consider contains the best overture to the life of Jesus and that is St John's Gospel, 1.1-5

*'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.*

*All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.*

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.*

*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.'*

A couple of themes in this opening passage of St John's prologue I find quite extraordinary. It's the idea that the person we know as Jesus was with God from the very beginning of time. He has been with God for all eternity.

As St John says in the opening to his Gospel, "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.*" That gives us some idea of the huge scope of the theme. Jesus, though born in a stable in Bethlehem, was with God before the earth began and will be with us throughout our lives and through all eternity. It's difficult for us to have any notion at all what eternity means, or just how long eternity is. If we think back to the beginning of time as we know it, we are only going back 4,550 million years to when the Earth was formed, and yet, eternity is a lot longer than that. It goes way, way back, millions upon millions, upon millions of years, and St John is telling us that Jesus was with God then. The whole idea is staggering. It begins to give me at least, some idea of the wonder of God and the dimensions of his love. Everybody we know has a beginning and end, but, God doesn't, He was here before time began and will still be here when time finishes. In the same sense, Jesus, has no beginning and no end. There has never a time when he wasn't there. The person we call Jesus of Nazareth has a history like no other. While we go back to our birth, he goes back beyond birth to infinity. There are no words with which can describe the presence of God or Jesus in our lives. For the presence of God and Jesus fill both the past, the present and the future that is what eternity is and that is the first theme in St John's overture.

Another theme that comes across in the overture is that the Word (Jesus) became flesh! This extraordinary being, who is in no way limited by time and

space, allowed himself to be imprisoned in a human body, not only that, but the body of a baby. He lived in his mother's womb, depended on her for food and drink, burped his food, had to be patted on the back, and was subject nappy rash. As he grew, he knew all the thrills, and the trials and tribulation of boyhood and adulthood and died as a common criminal nailed to a cross. The limitations of our flesh suggest that there is a limit to what we do or achieve, but the theme expounded in St John's shows there is no limit to what God can do or achieve, and this was proved in his love and generosity in the birth at Bethlehem. By narrowing things down, in this the miracle of the Word – Jesus becoming flesh - St John opens up to us the theme of God's compassion and love.

A third theme I picked up on in St John's overture is that this Word - Jesus - is also the light of the world. Not only is Jesus a teacher whose teachings and guidance help those who live by them to live a good, active and fruitful life; but whose teachings lighten up the world by driving away superstition and fear, opening up an understanding of what true freedom from fear and superstition is.

Like all good overtures there are many themes intertwined in the prologue to St John's Gospel. I have chosen only three here. The eternity of Jesus, Jesus, becoming flesh and living among us, Jesus through his teaching as the light of the world. If you read it may also find themes of amazement, of wonder, of gratitude, and the call to God's service. I hope you will read again the prologue and find the themes that St John wrote in his overture to the earthly life of Jesus.

Your Brother in Christ

David



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Thanks to supporters like you, The Children's Society can be there for them. Last year we helped more than 11,000 children and young people through our direct support work. But during the Covid-19 crisis, the demand for our services has been greater than ever.

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Simply visit [givehope.uk](https://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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YMCA Charity Shop, Horsefair, Pontefract

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## Lay Training.

The Lay Training team are pleased to offer an online training course - 'The World of Jesus' with Gordon Dey, - starting Wednesday February 3rd 2021, 7-9pm for eight weeks [with a break March 3rd].

The course is an opportunity to explore the people and places of Jesus' ministry from Nazareth through to Jerusalem. Places are limited so for more information and to book please see

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/the-world-of-jesus/>

A zoom invitation will be sent before the start of the course.



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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!

## Counting Blessings

As you look forward to the year ahead, look back too and say thank you to God for all the blessings he gave you last year. These very simple ideas help you do that with young children.

### Blessing stars

Write on the back of star-shaped gift tags to remind you of some of the blessings of last year – family, friends, health, time together – then hang them somewhere visible; perhaps even create a mini 'tree' to hang them on by collecting twigs and standing them up in a plant pot.

### Thank you for food

Even if you don't normally 'say grace' before a meal, why not try this simple prayer at a mealtime:

*For this food, and for each other,  
and for every gift and blessing,  
we thank you, God. Amen.*

### Make a blessings table mat:

- Decorate a piece of A4 card or paper with things that remind you of the good things in your family's life. This is a great activity to do with a small child while they wait for the meal to start.
- If you want to keep it for more than one meal, you'll need to laminate it.
- Your child can use it as a table mat for the special meal – a reminder to everyone of all the things to be thankful for.

### Decorate a blessings jar:

- Take an old jam jar or other container, and make sure it's nice and clean.
- Decorate the outside with pictures, photos, handprints, stickers – everything that reminds you of the good things in your family's life.
- If you use PVA glue you can add an extra layer of glue at the end to act as a varnish.
- Put the decorated jar somewhere you'll see it throughout the year, and keep some sticky notes and a pen close by.
- Whenever something good happens, jot it down and put the sticky note in the jar.
- If you're having a tough day, or feeling down, get the papers out of the jar and read through them to remind you of the good things.

Article taken from [www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org) with permission.

# 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.



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## We must become a 'simpler, humbler, bolder Church'

The momentous events of 2020 will have a “profound effect” on the future of the Church of England and our wider society, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a recent joint address to the General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said the Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a “simpler, humbler, bolder Church.”

The archbishops' comments came as they addressed the first online sitting of the General Synod following a legal change to enable it to meet remotely amid the coronavirus restrictions.

They outlined how the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout are providing the backdrop to huge social changes - here and around the world.

They also singled out how the Black Lives Matter movement and the publication of the IICSA report on abuse had exposed the Church's own failings and the need to change.

Archbishop Justin told Synod: “2020 will be a year that registers in memory and in history. It can be compared with 1929, with 1914, with 1989.

“We are aware that this is a year in which huge changes are happening in our society and consequently in the Church.

“For let us be clear, there is no possibility of changes in society failing to have a profound effect on the shape, calling and experience of mission in the Church.”

Outlining the dramatic events of 2020, he added: “These crises are not signs of the absence of God but calls to recognise the presence of the kingdom

and to act in faith and courage, simplifying our life focusing on Jesus Christ, looking outwards to the needy and renewing in our cells our call to wash feet, to serve our society and to be the Church for England.”

Archbishop Stephen went on to outline the work of groups set up to discern how the Church of England might respond and change in light of the recent challenges.

He told Synod: “If we put our trust in God, and if we learn to love one another, then I believe we can become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church, better able to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

## World Leprosy Day - 30th January

It is not just Covid-19 that makes other people want to avoid us. Up to three million people worldwide are living with leprosy, a disease that can separate sufferers from their loved ones for years.

Someone is newly diagnosed with leprosy every two minutes, and millions of people suffer crippling deformities.

Leprosy Mission was founded to help defeat this terrible disease, and to transform the lives of its victims. Nowadays this established Christian charity is a global network active in 34 countries across the world. 15 countries have a high burden of leprosy; Leprosy Mission works in 11 of them.

Leprosy Mission works closely with governments, local communities, partner health organisations, the World Health Organisation, local NGOs, local churches, and Christian partners.

And – you can help! This month you can pray, make a donation, or even consider working with Leprosy Mission.

Visit <https://www.leprosymission.org/get-involved>

## Epiphany for today

This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?' (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: 'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.' (2:11).

The gift of gold reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The gift of frankincense reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?

The gift of myrrh reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?

'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.' ('We Three Kings').



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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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## Week of Prayer

Time to prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

More at:

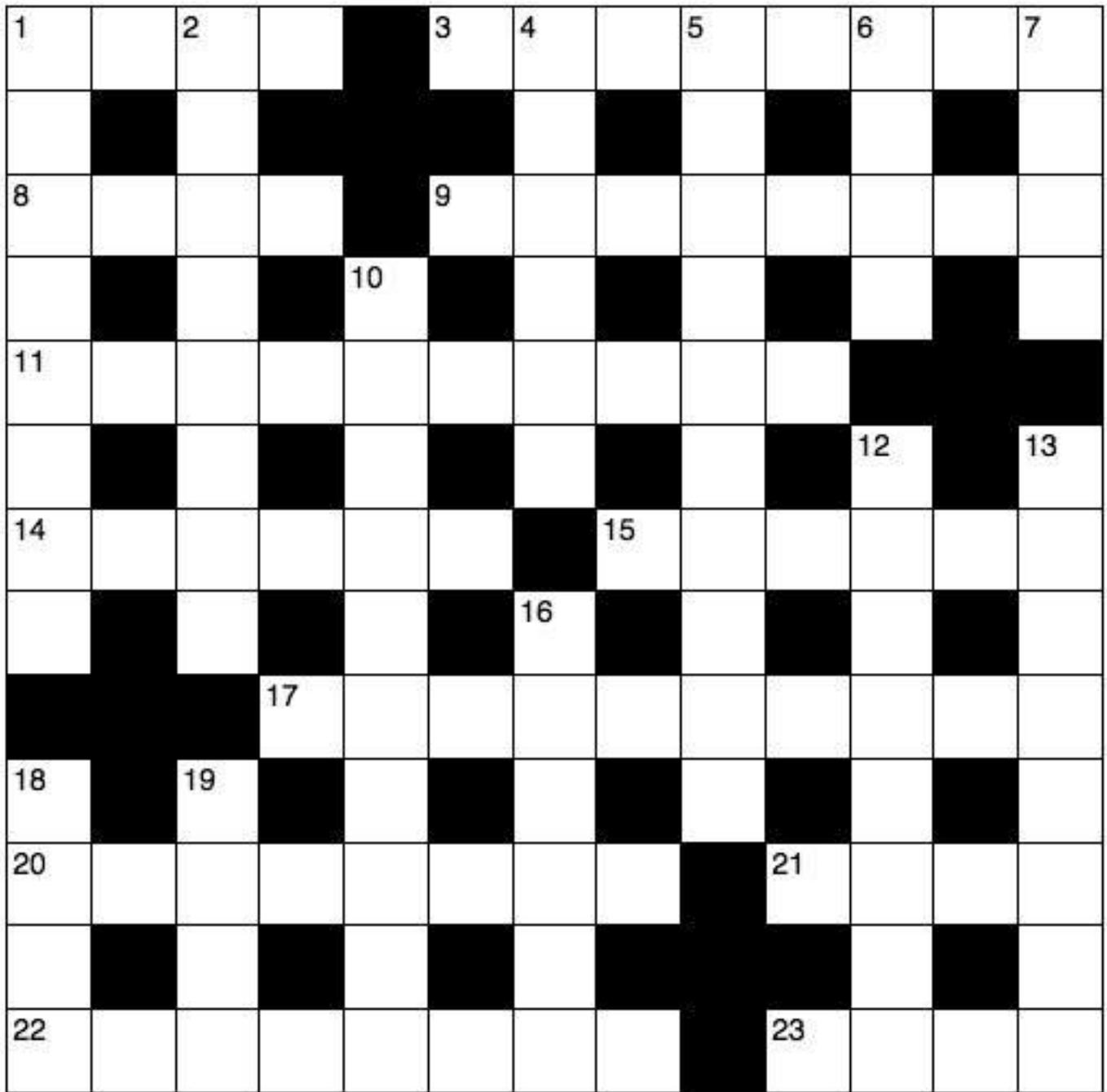
<https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

## Happy New Year

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Eleanor Roosevelt

# Crossword



## Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

## Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

# Pontefract Foodbank

**Pontefract Foodbank is looking for volunteer trustees to help lead our Charity.**

Pontefract Foodbank was established in 2014 and since then has provided hundreds of local people with emergency food supplies. We are a small charity with big ambitions for supporting our community. All our volunteers are highly dedicated and the support they provide to families and individuals in need is more important than ever. As a result, we are looking to increase the number of trustees to help shape the development of our important Charity.

**Vacancy for Treasurer** (with possible honorarium up to £1,000 per anum)

In particular we are seeking a volunteer Trustee Treasurer to take the lead on all financial governance matters. This will involve ensuring appropriate accounting procedures and financial controls are in place as well as preparing reports for the Board of Trustees and offering advice and support. You don't need to be a qualified accountant to do this job well but you are likely to have skills in financial accounting and report preparation, a meticulous attention to detail and the ability to communicate financial information clearly. Ideally, you will have previous experience as a treasurer for a society or charity or bookkeeping skills. If you are interested in becoming a Treasurer please see the attached role description.

## **Benefits of being a volunteer**

Sharing your talents and time for the benefit of those in our community who, for whatever reason, are in need of emergency support can be hugely rewarding. You will become part of a community of people dedicated to making a difference to local people and to ensuring a dignified experience for all who access our Foodbank and other services.

## More information and application details

Equality, diversity and inclusion is important to us; we welcome applications from talented people with different work/life experiences and from all parts of our community. We usually meet six times a year with other meetings as required.

If you would like to arrange an informal chat with Ian Clark please email [ian.clark002@yahoo.com](mailto:ian.clark002@yahoo.com)

For a full role description and an application form please contact Ian Clark at the above email address. Completed application forms must be submitted to the Chair, Ian Clark at [ian.clark002@yahoo.com](mailto:ian.clark002@yahoo.com) by 27 January 2021.

## No 6, The Circle

With a lot of help from WDH, local councillors and Church members, no 6 The Circle was fitted out by mid-November. The Pantry Club is now becoming established with 11 members from the Chequerfield/Willow Park areas receiving weekly deliveries of basic groceries. We estimate that each member is saving about £40 a month on food bills for the £2 per week subscription which covers running expenses.

Just before Christmas, no 6 hosted the Food Share Holiday food project. This time, we have supported 29 Pontefract families.

Thanks again for everyone in the Parish who has supported no 6. Thanks also to local people who have called at no 6 to express support for the Project and to donate food.

Paul and Ann Harris  
December 2020

# Notes from the P.C.C. Meeting

**HELD VIA ZOOM ON 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

Canon June Lawson chaired the meeting held via Zoom with 16 members present and three apologies given. Canon June welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Peter Townley, Archdeacon of Pontefract, who joined the PCC to give thanks. He opened the meeting with a prayer and thanks for keeping the flame of faith alive.

The **Minutes** of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

A letter had been received from the Archbishop, asking all churches to participate in the '**Prayer for a Nation**' month of prayer. Resources have been added to the church website and the church has participated in the Thursday evening prayers and tolling of the church bell.

A letter was received from the Diocese concerning parish share and the request that churches do all they can to make full payment.

Information had also been received on the **Living in Love and Faith** project. More information will be published in the New Year.

Both Bruce Dagleish (churchwarden) and Canon June had attended an online webinar by Faith Online who offered a package of equipment, especially designed for use in churches, to enhance the ability to **live stream services** on the web. However, after further investigation, the suggestion presented to the PCC was to go down a different route, which would include the purchase of the following:

- A MEVO camera – small, lightweight, completely wireless and with own

microphone. Tech support is included through their website.

- A tripod designed to be used with the camera
- Protective case
- Dedicated iPad

A donation has been offered to cover the cost of this equipment, which should be compatible with our existing sound desk. The purchasing of suitable equipment was agreed in principle by all members.

There were no **Safeguarding** issues to report.

A **Finance** report had previously been circulated, which showed that income is down (c. £20K) on previous years due to the pandemic. The number of funerals has reduced and there is now no fee paid to the PCC when clergy take services at the crematorium. Proceeds from refreshments will not return until the café reopens. At the end of the year £18K of parish share (including St Mary's proportion) will be owing. Proposal: St Giles Church (inc. St Mary's) should pay their full Parish Share to enable ministry and mission in the parish and across the Diocese. This was agreed unanimously.

A **Fabric, Health & Safety** report had previously been circulated, noting that servicing of the two boilers had taken place. PL gave thanks to Dave Malkin for managing the underfloor heating system, giving his time very generously. It is a complex system and needs careful attention.

During the time of the reordering, St Giles received a Biffa grant under the Landfill Communities Trust, which required registration with Entrust. Bill Bradley has provided NIL returns for the last nine years and has now completed a form to withdraw from this scheme.

Tony Williams submitted a **Diocesan Synod** report.

Minutes of meetings held by the **Standing Committee** on 6 October and 3 November were circulated prior to the meeting.

Bill Bradley submitted an update on centre bookings on behalf of the **St Giles Centre Management Committee**. Several new sessions were about to commence when, unfortunately, the second lockdown began. The CAB were due to return, but this has now been postponed. Several courses were booked in by the Wellbeing College, some of which have been rescheduled in the new year.

A report on the **Foodbank and Foodshare projects** was submitted by Paul and Ann Harris. The first set of deliveries for the Food Pantry have been made with 7 families initially all signed up and have paid their subscription. A sign is being sourced for 'No.6', which will be the official name. The strapline is 'Stretching family budgets and fighting waste'. The lease on the shop is initially for 12 months.

**Chair's Notes** - Christmas services are very hard to plan until further guidance is received after 2 December.

- Carol service – the congregation will be unable to sing. A service could only be livestreamed with the choir leading the music if the choir can go into church to rehearse.
- Christmas Eve – we will aim to hold an early service, normally 'the Crib Service' (however, the usual format will not be possible), and a later service. Cleaning will need to take place between the services.
- Christmas Day – service at 10.15am.
- It may be that all events will have to be ticketed and offered to the congregation first. Once we know how many seats are left, then they can be offered to the wider community.
- Services will be livestreamed where appropriate
- An Advent study course is being offered by Canon John Lawson on 3 nights via Zoom.

- Other Advent resources will be uploaded to the website.
- We will be participating in the Church of England event 'Comfort and Joy' – readings, prayers, and reflections from Advent to Epiphany', for which a small booklet will be made available or alternatively an app. Details will be in the notices in due course.
- Discussions are ongoing with schools to see if children can visit in their class or year 'bubbles'.

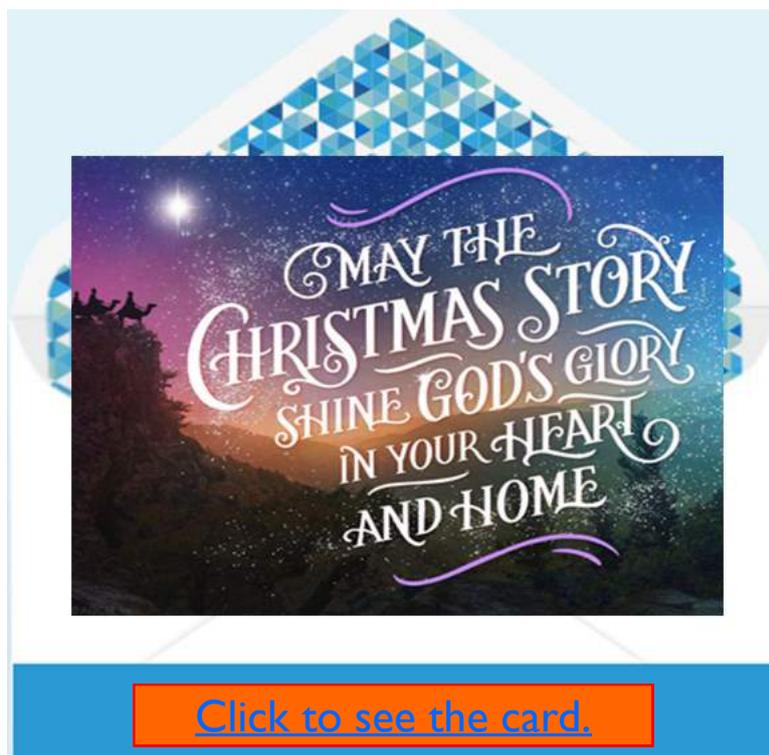
**Any Other Business** - Barbara Sessford gave thanks to all for their kind messages following the death of her husband, Roger.

The date of the next meeting is set as **Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm.**

The meeting finished with a closing prayer from Canon June.

## Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings from Andrew and Andrea Young of CMS, whose work as a congregation we support in Nepal.



## **Five things I'd like to see in 2021**

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren. Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year. Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

### **Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily.**

Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

**Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic** – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

**Let's value nature.** Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

**Let's bless technology.** Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

**Let's value our church family.** Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life, and be able to pass it on to others.

The Revd Peter Crumpler  
St Albans.

## 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 February's magazine is **Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup>**.

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

## Funerals in December

Robert Peter Broughton

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

**Year's mind** We give thanks for the lives of:- **3** Gladys Worrell, **6** Francis Leslie Schofield, **10**, Olga Kirkwood, **12** Daniel Beddis, Dolly Faulkner, Desmond Stuart Frankland, **16** Mary Dean, **17** Peter Danby, Tom Sharp, **18** Brian Sanderson, **21** Wallace Jeffrey, **23** Arthur Mercer, Brian Reed, **25** Robert Cooper **26** Stanley Firth, **27** Kathleen Fernside, Ann Veronica Sanderson.

*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
03/01/21 Epiphany	10.15 am. Eucharist	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLEASE NOTE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">These services will be taking place in St Giles' and will be live streamed on</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/">https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please view the church's website for up to date information</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/">http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/</a></p>				
10/01/21 1st After Epiphany	10.15 am. Eucharist					
17/01/21 2nd After Epiphany	10.15 am. Eucharist					
24/01/21 3rd After Epiphany	10.15 am. Eucharist					
31/01/21 Candlemas	10.15 am Eucharist					

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings
03/01/21 Epiphany	<p>Here are the readings for the Sunday services in January</p>				Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12
10/01/21 1st After Epiphany					Acts 19.1-7 Mark 1.4-11
17/01/21 2nd After Epiphany					Revelation 5.1-10 John 1.43 – 51
24/01/21 3rd After Epiphany					Revelation 19.6-10 John 2.1-11
31/01/21 Candlemas					Mal 3. 1-5 Heb 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40

# 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

**PCC Vice Chairman**

Barbara Sessford 699058

**Churchwardens**

Bruce Dalglish 07809760993  
 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 Dalglish 690216

**St Giles' Altar Flowers**

Barbara Chessman 700559

**Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary**

Janet Colvill/Marjorie Laidlaw 704864/795748

**Children's Society Box Secretary**

Angela Bradley 613643

**Missions Committee Secretary**

Edith Barber 277226

**Pro-Wardens at St Mary's**

Frank Ward

**St Mary's Church Secretary**

Ann Harris 707056

**St Mary's Church Treasurer**

Delia Perrett 796223  
 David Leigh 706526

**St Mary's Church Meeting Chair**

David Brooks 798599

**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  
 Sheila Roydhouse 793045

## A prayer for the New Year

O Lord, our Father! At the turn of the year... our hearts are filled with sombre thoughts... our ears are deafened by the voices of the radio and the newspapers, with their numerous predictions for the coming year. Instead we want to hear Your word, Your voice, Your assurance, Your guidance. We know that You are in our midst, and are eager to give us all that we need, whether we ask or not.

...We ask for one thing only: that you collect our scattered thoughts, getting rid of the confused and defiant thoughts that may distract us, and thus enable us to concentrate on your limitless generosity to us. You were abundantly generous to us last year, and will be no less generous to us next year, and in every year to come. Fill us with gratitude to you.

Karl Barth (1886 - 1968)

# St Giles' Guide Book



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