



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



Parish Administrator: Vivienne Smales
Parish office: 01977 790448
Email: stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com
Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10.00am-2.00pm

The Revd Canon June Lawson 01977 706803
Email: vicarofpontefract@gmail.com
Fr. Rod Walker: 07746 980727
Fr. Michael Taylor: 01977 702824
Reader David Brooks: 07584 859569

**** NO PUBLIC WORSHIP IN CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ****

Public services will be live streamed on [Facebook](#) on Sunday, 31st January, Wednesday 3rd February at 9.30am and Sunday, 7th February at 10.15am.

Weekly online Compline - 8.00pm on Thursdays with Jill Clapham, trainee Reader.

SUNDAY, 31st JANUARY 2021—THE FESTIVAL OF CANDLEMAS

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are issuing a call to the nation to pause and reflect to remember the more than 100,000 people across the UK who have died after contracting Covid-19 and all those who know and love them.

In an open letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell invite everyone across England – whether they have faith or not – to pause, reflect on the “enormity of this pandemic” and to pray (<http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Letter-from-Archbishops-of-Canterbury-York.pdf>)

The letter includes an invitation to everyone – whether they have faith or not – to join the archbishops in pausing and praying each day at 6pm from 1st February.

We remember before God those who have died and we pray that God's love will surround all who mourn them, now and always

Gracious God,
as we remember before you
the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn
with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.



NATIONAL LOCKDOWN—REMEMBER: HANDS, FACE, SPACE.

Approximately 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and could be spreading it without realising it.

- hands – wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds
- face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings).

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, 31st JANUARY 2021

THE FESTIVAL OF CANDLEMAS

Collect

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Hebrews 2.14 to end

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit,

Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna: the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

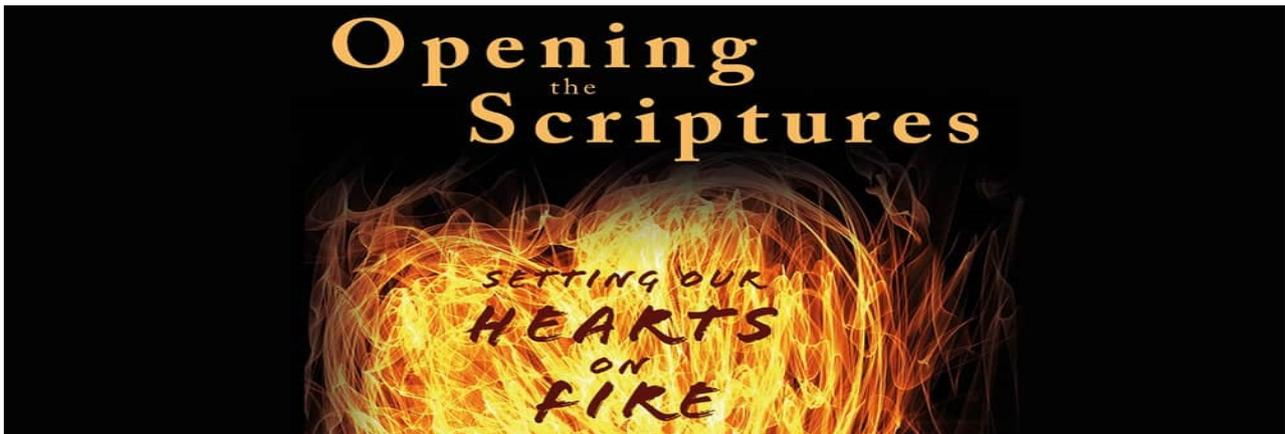
The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, 1st February	Morning:	Psalm 1 & I Corinthians 12.12 to end
<i>Ordinary Time begins</i>	Evening:	Psalm 4 & Matthew 27.11-26
Tuesday, 2nd	Morning:	Psalm 5 & I Corinthians 13
	Evening:	Psalm 9 & Matthew 27.27-44
Wednesday, 3rd	Morning:	Psalm 119.1-32 & I Corinthians 14.1-19
	Evening:	Psalm 11 & Matthew 27.45-56
Thursday, 4th	Morning:	Psalm 15 & I Corinthians 14.20 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 18 & Matthew 27.57 to end
Friday, 5th	Morning:	Psalm 19 & I Corinthians 16.1-9
	Evening:	Psalm 22 & Matthew 28.1-15
Saturday, 6th	Morning:	Psalm 23 & I Corinthians 16.10 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 24 & Matthew 28.16 to end

BENEFICE LENT COURSE 2021



‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ (Luke 24:32)

What are the parts of the Bible that set your heart on fire? What texts or passages or stories in scripture make your heart burn within you?

Weekly studies: Wednesdays at 4.00-5.00pm from Wednesday, February 24th to Wednesday, March 31st.

PROGRAMME

February 17th: Ash Wednesday service (*Time of service tbc*) and launch of the study theme. (Luke 24:13-35)

February 24th: Study 1: *The Fire and the Name* (Exodus 7:5-15)

March 3rd: Study 2: *And all the earth shall cry Glory* (Genesis 1:1 – 2:4)

March 10th: Study 3: *Face to Face* (Genesis 76:66 – 33:10)

March 17th: Study 4: *Heart to heart, sorrow and joy* (Psalm 66)

March 24th: Study 5: *Bound together in love and sacrifice* (Genesis 66:5-18)

March 31st: Holy Week ‘How then would the scriptures be fulfilled.’ *Session to be confirmed.*

All meetings will be held at **4.00pm on zoom**. Please book in with Vivienne Smales, the parish administrator, who will provide the zoom link code.

stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com 01977 790448

There is reflection on art, music and poetry, as well as opportunities to share passages that particularly speak to us.

Lent course for 2021 (produced by CTBI in 2020 and written by Dr Clare Amos).

We pray for those who are ill:

David; Morag; Jonathan; Stephanie; Brenda; Roger; Jessie; Diane; Cynthia; Ali; Daniel; Mar; Bridget and Barrie; Janis Gallagher, Jenny & Andrew Priest; Jonathan Bellamy; Rhys Williams; Lucy Nicholl; Frances Kemp; Pat Steel; Maureen Steane; Anita Murray; David Murray; Robert Metcalfe; Barbara Berridge; Gayle Abelthorpe; Fred Ruddick.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Evelyn Sarah Leigh; Elsie Hill, Evelyn Jackson; Mollie Lowe.

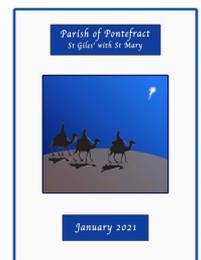
And those whose years mind falls at this time:

Brian Swindell; Alan Ackling; Geoffrey Bullock; Guildford Walker

The February Parish Magazine will be available shortly. In the meantime the [January Parish Magazine](#) is available to view on the website.

Thank you to all those who have submitted items for the magazine.

If you would like to contribute to the February magazine, please send your article to either Bruce Dalglish (brucedalglish0@gmail.com) or Stuart Lonsdale (stgmnotices@gmx.com). The deadline for receipt of articles is Sunday, 20th February 2021.



SPONSOR A SERVICE SHEET

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

David Leigh will happily receive any sponsorship contributions.

Account: St Giles Parochial Church Council, Bank: Yorkshire Bank, 25 Ropergate, Pontefract WF8 1LQ

Sort Code: 05-06-71

Account Number: 16172795

If you would like something posted on our social media platforms, please email:

stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com

To keep in touch with the latest news from the Parish, please visit our websites:

www.stgilespontefract.org.uk

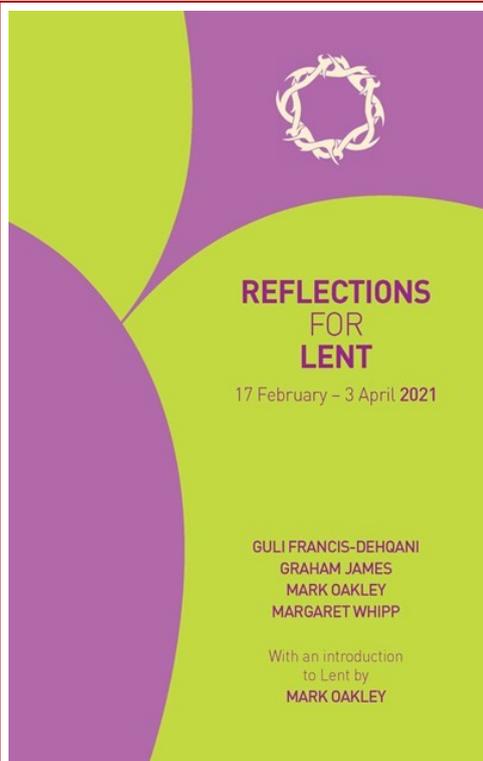
www.stgilescentreontefract.org.uk

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract



Twitter: @CofEPontefract & Instagram: stgilespontefract





REFLECTIONS FOR LENT is designed to enhance your spiritual journey through the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (17 February - 3 April 2021).

Covering Monday to Saturday each week, it offers reflections on readings from the Common Worship Lectionary, written by some of today's leading spiritual and theological writers.

Each day includes:

- * Full lectionary details for Morning Prayer
- * A reflection on one of the Bible readings
- * A Collect for the day

It is ideal for individuals for use during Lent and Holy Week.

It also features a simple form of morning and night prayer and a guide to Lent.

£4.99 available from Amazon, Church House Publishing, or let us know you want one and we will order one for you. Please ensure you place your order with us by 8th February.

Dealing with Loneliness and Isolation: FIVE TOP TIPS



1. **Pray** – light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.



2. **Talk about how you feel.**

This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but use the phone, internet and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor, this can be arranged by your GP, local agencies or privately. Samaritans are there 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.



3. **Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.**



4. **Look after yourself – physically, emotionally, spiritually.**

Plan things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.



5. **Look after others – even if only in small ways, but do what you can:** a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

LUNCH WITH US

Lunch with Us will continue to offer a takeaway service on

Wednesdays, 12.00pm—1.00pm

Thank you in advance to all the volunteers for making this possible.

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline for Notices and Prayer List, Tuesday, 2nd February. Items must be received by 3:00p.m.

Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Caring for each other....

As we endure the third lockdown, let's think of our friends and acquaintances. If you haven't seen or heard from someone for a while, try and find out how they are or let us know and we will try to make contact. Please also ask the person if they would like to go on the service prayer list (using their full name or just first name). A note to us giving a contact number or address of the person concerned often helps.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



CONNECTIONS

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line, which is available 24 hours a day on

0800 804 8044

has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions.



HELPING TO RAISE MONEY FOR ST GILES

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

An additional £17.63 has been raised for St Giles over the Christmas and New Year period.

Well done and thank you! Just remember, it can be used all year!

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

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!

A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU TO NHS STAFF WORKING ON COVID WARDS

This scheme raised around 700 gift bags for the NHS at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, so due to the amount of parcels, some were also taken to the Ambulance Service in Wakefield. Thank you to everyone who contributed a gift as the staff are still working so hard as we continue through these difficult times. Here are just a few of the thanks received.

“It was very kind of everybody involved to send the thoughtful gifts. The gifts were definitely appreciated by everyone who received them, a huge thank you to everyone.”

“The staff were overwhelmed with the generosity—a nice treat at Christmas.”

“Someone in the ambulance service reported they were delighted and surprised by the gifts. Also, one of the senior nursing staff on covid wards said that the bags were lovely, well appreciated and to say thank you.”

Caroline Asquith, PA to the Bishop of Wakefield

PONTEFRACT FOODBANK IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES TO HELP LEAD THE 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

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 or to request an application form, please contact Mary Ford, Acting Chair, by email at maryjford@hotmail.co.uk