

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles' with St Mary*

*FAST
F(E)AST
FEAST*

February 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

Canon June writes:

Lent is a comin'...(17th February Ash Wednesday)

Perhaps we can all understand the sentiment that appeared on an Easter card, the front cover read 'The best part about Easter, is that Lent is over' and on the inside it said: "I really hate giving up things I love."

On February 17th the Lent journey begins (with Ash Wednesday) and we associate Lent with 'giving things up'. Even people who don't go to church sometimes share in the 'giving up' aspect of Lent as a cultural activity (usually chocolate or wine!). In the week before Lent begins, often the discussion at home and school, at church amongst friends, is 'what are you giving up for Lent?' We then hear a list of everyday items: chocolate, wine, meat, sugar, sweets, smoking, and increasingly facets of social media such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

As someone writing about Lent said, 'if that works for you, then so be-it'. If giving up something that you enjoy deepens your faith during these 40 days, then no one should tell you not to do it'.

However, during this last year -one lived out amidst a Covid pandemic- we have lost so much of what we enjoy; so maybe this Lent could take a different direction. 'Giving up' only really has spiritual value if it grows our faith; otherwise it easily becomes a source of pride in our achievement to resist whatever we have given up! And human pride is not a Christian virtue!

So, what if instead of just 'giving something up', we alternatively 'took something on'?

The reflection below can help us to shift the emphasis from 'giving up something for Lent' to 'doing something positive' during this Holy season of the church's year.

If Lent can help us to move away us from just 'giving up' or "fasting" to 'additionally feasting on good habits' then our lives will discover more of the

transformation that the Christian journey invites us to walk in.

The reflection below invites us to discover the joy of Christian living through fasting and feasting.

During Lent, let us...

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ within them.
Fast from emphasis on difference; feast on the unity of life.
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.
Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from worry; feast on trust in God's Care.
Fast from unrelenting pressure; feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from facts that depress; feast on verities that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.
Fast from discouragements; feast on hope.

(William Arthur Ward teacher and pastor, 1921-1994)

This Lent, may we learn not just to 'fast from' but also to 'feast on' all that will help us to live more generous and fruitful Christian lives.

'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.' (2 Peter 3.18)

Together @ Lent

It is traditional to give something up for Lent. This year why not take something up instead with our Together at Lent challenge. Take on one of these challenges for each of the 40 days of Lent (take a day off each Sunday) and commit to spending time together as a family with God.

You can complete them in any order and cross them off as you go.

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Read a favourite Bible story. | Look through family photos together. Thank God for the happy memories. | Encourage one another with kind words. | Phone a family friend and remind them they are loved! | Pray for your friends. | Play a board game together. | Write a letter of encouragement to somebody in your church. | Be still before God. |
| Pray for your teachers. | Plant some seeds together. | Spend some time waiting and listening to God together. | Pray for another country. | Wash one another's feet. | Build a den together and hang out with God. | Dance to a favourite worship song. | Use toys to act out a story from the Bible. |
| Sing a favourite worship song together. | Pray for your neighbours. | Give a gift to bless somebody. | Have a Bible race - who can find John 3:16 the fastest? | Draw a picture of a perfect world. | Pray for keyworkers. | Play hide and seek together. | Go for a walk in God's wonderful creation. |
| Draw a picture of Jesus. | Act out a story from the Bible together. | Memorise a Bible verse together. | Pray for the government and those in power. | Put an encouraging message for others in your window. | Encourage one another with words of truth. | Donate to and pray for your local food bank. | Make a joyful noise to the Lord! |
| Share your hopes and dreams for 2021. | Pray for your church leaders. | Pray with another family via video call. | Give to and pray for the work of a charity. | Read a Psalm. | Write a letter of encouragement to someone who blesses you. | Pray for one another. | Write a song together. |

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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A Taste of Yorkshire

I had a wonderful childhood growing up in Surrey, and my late mother was an amazing cook. Sadly that skill passed me by! But I did love it when she baked and I was always around to learn and to help clear up, particularly the mixing spoon and bowl. Mum had relatives in Yorkshire, and so had a wonderful recipe for Parkin, a firm family favourite and to my mind the gooier it was, the better it was.

Forty something years later (and not a lot of Parkin consumed in that time), my husband and I moved down here to Yorkshire to be closer to all of our family who are rather spread out around the country (in Hampshire and Suffolk), but particularly to be closer to our daughter and 2-year-old granddaughter in Leeds. Looking after Zara each Wednesday is now the highlight of my week, although the current lockdown has curtailed this and I am missing her so much, particularly her infectious giggle.

A number of weeks ago I saw some parkin on sale in a local farm shop and that got me thinking. I wouldn't say I particularly like cooking, but I do quite enjoy baking. I was sure I could make this myself and so, after a quick email to my sister, she hunted out and sent me mum's old recipe. I thought it would be lovely if I could repeat history and make parkin with Zara, the way I had made it with my mum. Sure enough, although I say so myself, it was as good as I remembered. Little Zara enjoyed the stirring, but more importantly the licking of the spoon – I had no chance! We had great fun baking together that day, but it wasn't just the fun of doing something with Zara, it was the treasured memories of my late mother and her wonderful Sunday afternoon teas.



Although I'm sure many of you already have a recipe for parkin, I'd like to share this with you, so the next time you want to fill in a lockdown day, here's a very quick and easy recipe.

Ingredients

7oz / 200g butter

4 tablespoons milk

3oz / 85g treacle (I didn't have this so just used more golden syrup)

3.5oz / 100g oatmeal

1 tablespoon ground ginger

1 large egg

7oz / 200g golden syrup

9oz / 250g self-raising flour

3oz / 85g light soft brown sugar

Method

- 1 Heat the oven to 160C / 140C fan / Gas 3. Butter a deep 8" or 9" (22cm) square cake tin and line with greaseproof paper.
- 2 Beat the egg and milk together with a fork.
- 3 Gently melt the syrup, treacle, sugar and butter together in a large pan until the sugar has dissolved. Remove from the heat.
- 4 Mix together the oatmeal, flour and ginger and stir into the syrup mixture, followed by the egg and milk.
- 5 Pour the mixture into the tin and bake for 50-60 minutes until the cake feels firm and a little crusty on top.
- 6 Cool in the tin then wrap in more greaseproof paper and foil to keep.

Mum's notes say the longer you keep it, the softer and stickier it gets – up to two weeks. Absolutely no chance! Mmm, it's been a while, so I'm off to make another batch.

Vivienne

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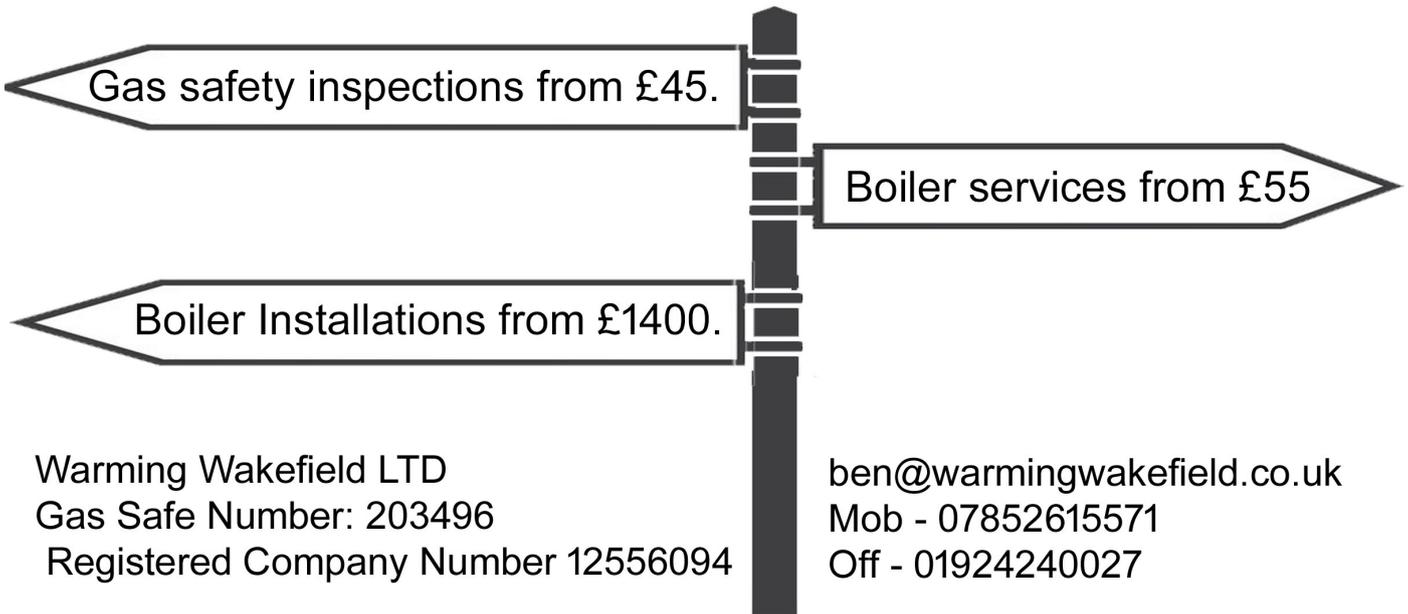




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A letter from the Archbishops



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.

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/20210126 Letter to the nation.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/20210126_Letter_to_the_nation.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 February 1.

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.

Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

2nd Feb:

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.



So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



The
Children's
Society

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

The pandemic has trapped these children at home, facing increased danger of abuse and neglect. They're all alone, trying to cope with their worries and fears.

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.

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.

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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.



Loving. Living.
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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!

UPDATE

An additional £17.63 has been raised over the Christmas and New Year period. Well done and thanks!

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Valentines Day

14th February...

Describe what love is

J R Miller (1840-1912) was considered by many to be the most gifted devotional writer of his generation. His book 'In Green Pastures' was much loved. Here is J R Miller's paraphrase of the famous 'love' passage in 1 Corinthians 13:

Love thinks no evil. It does not suspect unkindness in kindly deeds. It does not imagine an enemy in every friend. It does not fear insincerity in sincere professions of esteem. It does not impugn others' motives nor discount their acts.

On the other hand, it overlooks foibles and hides the multitude of faults that belong to every human being, even to those who are the holiest and the best. Love believes in the good that is in people and tries to think of them always at their best, not at their worst.

It looks, too, at the possibilities that are in people, what they may become through divine love and grace, and not merely at what they now are. It is wonderful how seeing through love's eyes changes the whole face of earthly life, transfiguring it. If the heart be filled with suspicion, distrust, and doubt of people, the world grows very ugly. But love sees brightness, beauty and hope everywhere.

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

A Stitch in Time



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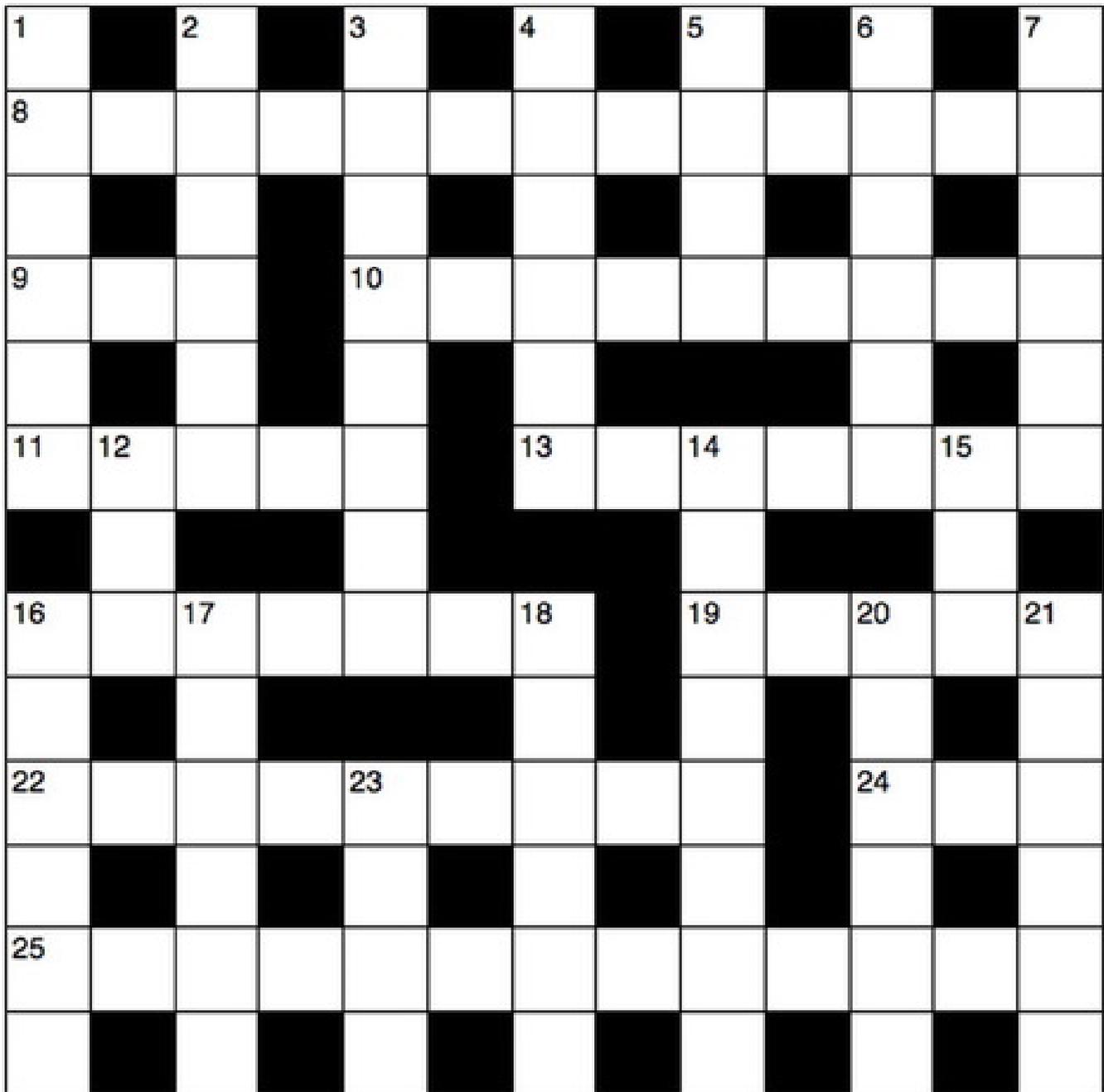
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Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies

as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Answer on page 32



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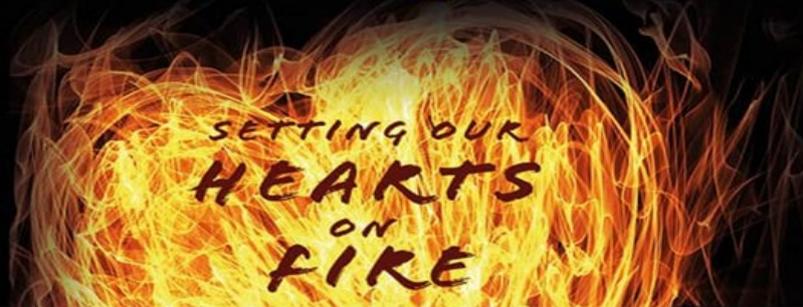
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www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us/

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.

Benefice Lent course 2021

Opening the Scriptures



'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 Wed Feb 24th to Wed 31st March.

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 3:1-15)*

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

March 10th: Study 3: *Face to Face (Genesis 32:22 – 33:10)*

March 17th: Study 4: *Heart to heart, sorrow and joy (Psalm 22)*

March 24th: Study 5: *Bound together in love and sacrifice (Genesis 22:1-18)*

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).

Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

16th Feb:

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "*And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne.*"

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

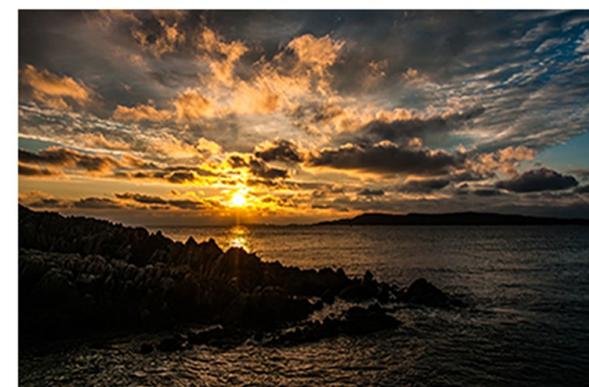
Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.



Iona: "A thin place where only tissue paper separates the material from the spiritual."



A recent Facebook reminder brought back memories of a visit I made in 2013 to Mull and the island of Iona. It took me from a very dark place in my life to a real sense of a new beginning. Hopefully these pictures will bring you some relief from the gloom of the pandemic.





The Isle of Mull is best known perhaps for its capital, Tobermory, which doubled as Balamory in the children's TV series, but there is so much more to see. Stunning scenery; beautiful bays; wonderful wildlife. Here the falls in Aros Park, a majestic sea eagle, a friendly local resident, Calgary Bay and Lochbuie. Calgary Bay was the last sight of land for so many who were forced to leave during the Highland Clearances in the early 1800s. It gives its name to the Canadian city of Calgary.



BGD 2021

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Hope for 2021: Celebrating the now and future creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. We may all need some extra hope for 2021, after the events of 2020. By the time you read this a number of us may have been fortunate enough to receive a COVID vaccine, but all of us will probably still be under various kinds of restrictions. After creation's winter shut-down, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2021, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by an animal virus jumping into the human population. Diseases like this are not 'natural disasters', but are almost certainly caused by environmental destruction and poor farming practices - either from greed or the desperation born of poverty. Part of the answer to the current crisis is for us to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new

heavens and new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2021 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

By Ruth Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

Fairtrade Fortnight:

22nd February – 7th March

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.

In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.

So this month, why not visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and see how you can send some support.

Sounds out your penitence, and let Christ clean
Your soul once more and scrub out every stain
Washing you thoroughly. For he has seen

What you confess and what you hide. Again
He mends your broken bones and makes for you
A clean heart, comes to comfort you again,

Comes with his Holy Spirit to renew
The spirit in you, calling you to sing
Of all your loving God has done for you.

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2020/10/22/he-mends-your-broken-bones-a-response-to-psalm-51/>

For a recording of Miserere Mei Deus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IC7V8hGI98>

Leave them be

The National Trust has urged the public to stay away from certain areas during breeding season this Spring. It hopes to mimic the effects of lockdown last year, which helped more vulnerable species.

The call follows the discovery last year that lockdown did our peregrine falcons, grey partridges and other species a real favour.

The tern colony at Blakeney Point in Norfolk had a bumper season, with more than 200 little tern chicks fledged, the most in 25 years. The Peak District saw more curlew, and the Llyn Peninsula saw more stoats, weasels and rabbits emerging from the woodlands of Plas yn Rhiw. Meanwhile, the ruins of Corfe Castle in Dorset became home to peregrine falcons, and a cuckoo arrived in Osterley, west London. Even Dartford warblers were on the move, some to as far as Shropshire.



Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
 Being very careful not to fall,
 He knew that by using A and E less,
 He was helping the NHS.

Joyce Bellamy



Sam Vladimirovsky



You can only laugh

This is the first year that I am not going to The Maldives because of Covid-19.

Normally, I don't go because I'm poor.

Day 302 at home and the dog is looking at me as if to say -

“See? This is why I chew the furniture!”

Nail salons, hair salons, waxing centres and tanning places are closed. It's about to get ugly out there!

Who's idea was it to sing “Happy Birthday” while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake!

My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, “Throw this and wherever it lands – that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends.” Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge!

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 Vivienne or Bruce, or email it to **both**

brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

in case one or other is on holiday etc.

The last date for items for March's magazine is **Sunday February 21st**.

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

Funerals in January

Christine Johnston; Jean Martlew; Elsie Hill; Evelyn Jackson; Mollie Lowe

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

Year's mind We give thanks for the lives of:- **Feb 1** Brian Swindell, **3** Alan Ackling, **4** Geoffrey Bullock, **5** Guildford Walker, **7** Bea Jordan, **8** Sheila Ward, **10** Hugh Fletcher Cutting, **14** Diane Lynn Howarth, **15** Albert Roydhouse, **20** Hu Pickard, **21** Irene Gartland, **22** Bernard Goddard, Constance Taylor, **25** Dorothy Barnett, **27** Annie Cooksey, **28** Allan Turner

*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
07/02/21 2nd Before Lent	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', whether with or without congregation, and will be live streamed on https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please view the church's website for up to date information http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/</p>				
14/02/21 Next Before Lent	10.15 am. Eucharist					
17/02/21 Ash Wednesday	Please see website for info.					
21/02/21 Lent 1	10.15 am. Eucharist					
28/02/21 Lent 2	10.15 am. Eucharist					
Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings	
07/02/21 2nd Before Lent	<p>Here are the readings for the Sunday services in February</p>				Col 1.15-20 John 1.1-14	
14/02/21 Next Before Lent				2 Cor 4.3-6 Mark 9 2-9		
17/02/21 Ash Wednesday				Joel 2.1-2,12-17 2 Cor 5.20b – 6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21		
21/02/21 Lent 1				Gen 9.8-17 1 Pet 3.18-end Mark 1.9-15		
28/02/21 Lent 2				Gen 17.1-7, 15-16 Rom 4.13-end Mark 8.31-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

A prayer for the pandemic

Dear Father God,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need Your listening ear at this time – and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world. Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring. Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings. This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life. Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

St Giles' Guide Book



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only £3