



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



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

The standing committee of the PCC has reviewed the present suspension of public worship and decided that the time is not yet right to reopen. A further review will take place after the government has set out its 'road map' on 22nd February. The Bishop and Archdeacon have been informed and an extension to the 17th February date requested.

**Public services will be live-streamed on Facebook on Sunday, 14 February, Ash Wednesday, 17 February at 9.30am and Sunday, 21 February at 10.15am.**

**Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 9.00am during Lent, will be live-streamed beginning on Tuesday, 23 February.**

**Compline moves to 6.00pm on Sundays (from 21st) during Lent.**

No Compline, therefore, on Thursday, 18th February.

## **SUNDAY, 14th FEBRUARY 2021—NEXT BEFORE LENT**

**Remember,  
Lent begins Ash Wednesday, 17th February—  
see inside for more details**



## **PRAYER FOR THE NATION—FEBRUARY 2021**

You are invited to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6.00pm each day. For more information and [daily themed prayers](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation), please visit:  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

### **Week 3—15-21 February 2021**

Loving Father God,  
be with us in our distress;  
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,  
our country and our world.  
Give health to the sick,  
hope to the fearful,  
and comfort to mourners.  
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,  
insight to our Government,  
and patience to us all.  
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



Canon June writes...

*'For God loves a cheerful giver..'*

Last week, we received a letter from Bishop Nick and the diocesan secretary Jonathan Wood, thanking churches for all that they had done to contribute to the Parish Share, in a very challenging financial landscape for churches, due to successive lockdowns. Bishop Nick reminded us that 'our contribution goes to support mission and ministry in every corner of the Diocese of Leeds.'



In times past, the Parish Share was known as 'the common fund.' Whatever its name, the words 'share' and 'common' highlight to us that when we fulfil a responsibility to pay it as fully as we are able, we help other Christian communities to flourish across our diocese. There is very explicit gospel teaching to 'give generously' as part of our Christian discipleship and also New Testament teaching for churches to generously support each other. This principle undergirds the diocesan 'parish share.'

St Giles with St Mary's paid the parishes share in full (£54,972 inc £4398 from St Mary's) but only because we had the financial reserves to do so. For a number of years, the PCC has needed to set a deficit budget and make up the shortfall from reserves. This financial year was no different, so before covid 19, it was expected that we would be drawing down £10,000 to cover all our costs. If we then add to this our losses in 2020, as detailed below, you will see the situation.

### **Reduction in Income 2020**

Gift Aided Free Will Offering (FWO) & Cash	£ 4,000
Non Gift Aided FWO & Cash	£ 1,000
Funeral Fees (from 2020 no parish inc from crematorium fees all paid centrally)	£ 4,000
Baptism & Funeral Collections	£ 2,000
Printing (Magazines / Bulletins)	£ 2,500
Refreshments	£ 10,000
Other (Inc. Votive Candles & Annual Draw)	£ 3,500
<b>TOTAL LOSS:</b>	<b>£ 27,000</b>

### **David Leigh our treasurer, writes**

'On top of a projected budget deficit of £10k, the PCC account suffered a reduction in income of ~£27k as a result of the pandemic. This loss was largely offset by transfers from a Legacy (£30k) and £6k from the Centre account (a 'Discretionary' Grant of £5k from WMDC and a donation of £1k towards the Parish Share).

The PCC has needed to set its budget for 2021 and again expects that income will be reduced, at least for the first 6 months of the year. So, 2021 will present further financial challenges for us.

So firstly, it is very important to say a massive 'thank you' to all of you for continuing to

give of your financial resources and taking care to ensure that the treasurer receives your donation even when you are not able to come into church and donate on the plate. Our ministry and mission in Pontefract depend on that generosity. Additionally, parishes beyond our own are 'supported' when we are able to pay the full parish share request. We certainly don't want the CofE to only provide ministry in wealthy parishes because 'they can afford to pay parish share'.

Secondly, I also want to thank individuals who have made 'one off gifts' to help us with additional costs related to livestreaming and improving the sound quality (new radio mikes) when we return to public worship. Other donations helped us to buy seasonal prayer and reflection material and provide Easter and Christmas cards. A bequest bought us some new chasubles and altar linen, paschal candle studs and an oil set for anointing the sick and dying. Every donation, above and beyond usual giving, however small, makes something possible that might otherwise not happen. Smaller amounts added together help to make a difference.

Thirdly, if you haven't been able to send in your usual donations whilst the church has been closed, then might you be able to post a cheque to our treasurer including the envelopes you normally use? Or might it be possible to consider switching to giving to St Giles by standing order via your bank? The church bank details are below if you would like to set up a regular payment, David Leigh will also advise if you are unsure how to do this.

One of the disciplines of Lent is reviewing our almsgiving: could I ask each of us in coming weeks to prayerfully reflect on our existing giving and decide whether we feel that we can increase the monthly amount we give, (of course we may need to reduce giving because of loss of income). If together we can help to address the £10,000 shortfall each year (or £833.33 per month) and the additional loss of income that covid 19 will still present us with in at least the first half of this year, then our churches and other churches will benefit from that generosity through the parish share. St Paul writing to the Corinthian church reminds them of the importance of 'giving' to enable ministry within and beyond themselves: 'each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' (from 2 Corinthians 9:7- the whole chapter is worth a read).

With grateful thanks for all that you generously give to enable ministry and mission at St Giles and St Mary's and, through the full payment of our parish share, to additionally enabling ministry and mission beyond ourselves.

Canon June

**St Giles bank details:** Account: St Giles PCC, Bank: Yorkshire Bank. Sort code: 05-06-71  
Account number: 16172795

## PRAYER LIST

As is our practice, the prayer list is renewed on a regular basis. All names, including those recently added, will be removed from the prayer list for Sunday 7th March, and the list will be restarted. If you wish any name to remain on the prayer list then please do so: by emailing Stuart Lonsdale on [stgmnotices@gmx.com](mailto:stgmnotices@gmx.com) or by leaving a message on the church phone (01977 790448). Please note that under GDPR regulations, full names can no longer be used in the 'Prayer List' unless the person concerned has given permission for their name to be used. Could you please indicate if permission has been given.

This does not, in any way, affect the Years Mind list.

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY 2021  
NEXT BEFORE LENT**

**Collect**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**2 Corinthians 4.3-6**

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Mark 9.2-9**

*The Transfiguration*

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

*The Coming of Elijah*

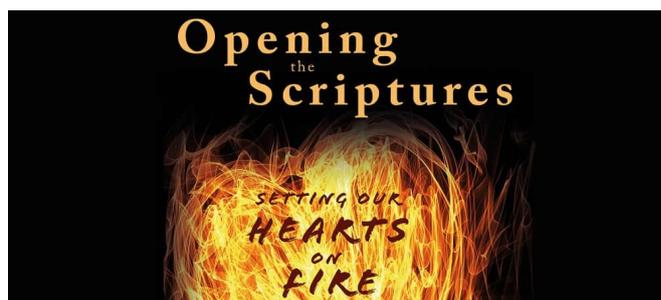
<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Monday, 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning:	Psalm 44 & John 3.1-21
	Evening:	Psalm 47 & Galatians 1
<b>Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning:	Psalm 48 & John 3.22 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 50 & Galatians 2.1-10
<b>Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning:	Psalm 38 & 1 Timothy 6.6-19
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Evening:	Psalm 51 & Luke 15.11 to end
<b>Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning:	Psalm 77 & John 4.1-26
	Evening:	Psalm 74 & Galatians 2.11 to end
<b>Friday, 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning:	Psalm 3 & John 4.27-42
	Evening:	Psalm 31 & Galatians 3.1-14
<b>Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning:	Psalm 71 & John 4.43 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 73 & Galatians 3.15-22

## 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 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 31<sup>st</sup>: 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](mailto: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).*

## Ash Wednesday

Ash  
Wednesday



A short service at home  
for personal use

“Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and  
be faithful to Christ.”

The Ash Wednesday Service (inc. music) will be livestreamed on Facebook at 9.30am on Wednesday, 17th February this year, with a livestreamed evening prayer at 4.30pm. Both services will be available on the Facebook page to be listened to at any point on the day. Sadly, this year, we are unable to ash foreheads so the liturgy will be modified to take account of this.

In addition, an **Ash Wednesday Prayer Card** with an ash based cross on the front cover, along with a prayer booklet (A short Service at home for personal use), will be available in church this Wednesday (12<sup>th</sup> February) when the church is open for private prayer (10.00-11.30am) and on Ash Wednesday itself (17<sup>th</sup> February) when the church will be open for private prayer between **10.00am-11.30am and 1.30pm-3.00pm.**

You may **additionally** like to use the card and booklet as part of your personal devotions on that day.

***If you are unable to collect a prayer card as part of your shopping, then let us know and we will get one to you.***

## LENT RESOURCES

A number of resources have been added to the St Giles' website, which you might like to use at home. They are:

[Morning Prayer during Lent](#) (Tuesdays at 9.00am live-streamed.)

[Compline During Lent](#) (Sundays at 6.00pm live-streamed)

[St Giles Lent Prayers 2021](#)

[Order of Morning Prayer in Holy Week & Eastertide](#)

[Lent in a virtual Bag 2021](#)

[Bake your way through Holy Week](#)

[Ash Wednesday activities 2021](#)

[A3 lent poster](#)

## Diocese of Leeds - Wakefield Episcopal Area

**Bishop Tony Robinson, Bishop of Leeds  
invites you to participate in a**



via ZOOM

### MIDDAY PRAYER AND LENTEN REFLECTIONS

**FRIDAYS at 12 noon**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

Please email Caroline [caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org) for the zoom details.

We hope to record these reflections for those who cannot join us at these times. They will be available afterwards at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvnxg6p0I5vUTWe9H-kIJpw>

Loving. Living.

## Learning.

### Rhythm of Life: Families – Seasonal Material

#### Lent 2021 Resources

This Lent material looks at some key points in Jesus life, starting with his baptism. It is designed to be used by children, young people and their families each week during Lent. The resources can be accessed directly online, by clicking on the weekly links below. In addition, for each week there is a downloadable sheet which can be shared if that is more helpful.

[Week 1 – 21st February](#)

[Week 2 – 28th February](#)

[Week 3 – 7th March](#)

[Week 4 – 14th March](#)

[Week 5 – 21st March](#)

[Week 6 – 28th March](#)

[Easter](#)

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE - LENT APPEAL**

***The St. Giles' Lent Appeal for 2021 is Mara, Majengo Mapya.***

Due to the exceptional circumstances this year it has been decided to provide two different ways for people to make their donation.

Either, by using the Treasurer's box in the church reception area, marking the envelope 'Lent Appeal' or by bank transfer using the bank details shown on page 3.

## **THE PARISH MAGAZINE**

If you would like to contribute to the March magazine, please send your article to both Bruce Dalgleish, Editor ([brucedalgleish0@gmail.com](mailto:brucedalgleish0@gmail.com)) and Vivienne Smales ([stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)) just in case either is on holiday. The deadline for receipt of articles this month is Sunday, 21st February 2021.

## **LUNCH WITH US**

Lunch with Us continues to offer a takeaway service on

**Wednesdays, 12.00pm—1.00pm**

Thank you to all the volunteers for making this possible.

## **PUBLICATION DEADLINE**

**Deadline for Notices and Prayer List, Tuesday, 16th February. Items must be received by 3:00p.m.**

Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

## **Caring for each other....**

As we endure the third lockdown, let us 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.



## **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>

<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, 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!