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

St Giles'
One Church, One Community

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
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Fr. Rod Walker: 07746 980727
Fr. Michael Taylor: 01977 702824
Reader David Brooks: 07584 859569

**** 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 granted.

Public services will be live-streamed on Facebook on Sunday, 21st February at 10.15am, Wednesday, 24th February at 9.30am and Sunday, 28th February at 10.15am.

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

Compline moves to 6.00pm on Sundays (from 21st) during Lent.
No Compline, therefore, on Thursday, 18th February.

SUNDAY, 21st FEBRUARY 2021—1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Lord God, on this first Sunday in Lent,
we remember the trials and temptations of your son, Jesus Christ,
in his journey through the wilderness,
and how he triumphed over all.
In our prayers we think of the difficult journeys in life
encountered by so many people in the world.
We pray that in their different times of need,
they may find discernment to see their way ahead,
and strength to overcome whatever problems they face.
We pray that faith may be deepened in this period of Lent,
and all may walk in the light of the Lord.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY 2021
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through 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.

1 Peter 3.18 to end

18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the
unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the
flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a
proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey,
when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the
ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21 And
baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt
from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right
hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1.9-15

The Baptism of Jesus

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by
John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he
saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I
am well pleased."

The Temptation of Jesus

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was
in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild
beasts; and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the
good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of
God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, 22nd	Morning:	Psalm 11 & John 5.1-18
	Evening:	Psalm 13 & Galatians 3.23-4.7
Tuesday, 23rd	Morning:	Psalm 44 & John 5.19-29
	Evening:	Psalm 49 & Galatians 4.8-20
Wednesday, 24th	Morning:	Psalm 6, John 5.30 to end
	Evening:	Psalm 28 & Galatians 4.21-5.1
Thursday, 25th	Morning:	Psalm 42 & John 6.1-15
	Evening:	Psalm 142 & Galatians 5.2-15
Friday, 26th	Morning:	Psalm 22 & John 6.16-27
	Evening:	Psalm 55 & Galatians 5.16 to end
Saturday, 27th	Morning:	Psalm 63 & John 6.27-40
	Evening:	Psalm 4 & Galatians 6

We pray for those who are ill:

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

We pray for those who have recently died:

Joe Slatter; Fred Arnold; Harry Bramley; Philip Heckingbottom

And those whose years mind falls at this time:

Irene Gartland; Bernard Goddard; Constance Taylor; Dorothy Barnett; Annie Cooksey.

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 lock-downs. 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 covid19, 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
TOTAL LOSS:	**£ 27,000**

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 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, please visit: https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation

Week 4, 22-28 February 2021

Lord Jesus Christ,
in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you.
In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster.
Do it again, we pray.
Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders,
Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers.
Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve.
Lord Jesus Christ,
in these dark and difficult days,
turn your face towards us,
have mercy upon us,
and heal our land, we pray.
Amen.

LENT RESOURCES

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

Stations of the Cross
The Way of the Cross, with sonnets by Malcolm Guite
Walk with Jesus on the Way of the Cross—for children
St Giles Lent Prayers 2021
Order of Morning Prayer in Holy Week & Eastertide
Morning Prayer during Lent
Daily Prayer in Lent
Lent in a virtual Bag 2021
Daily Compline in Lent
Compline During Lent
Bake your way through Holy Week
Holy Week activities for children
Light at Home for teenagers
Light at Home for young children
Ash Wednesday activities 2021
A3 lent poster

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 February 24th to 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 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.

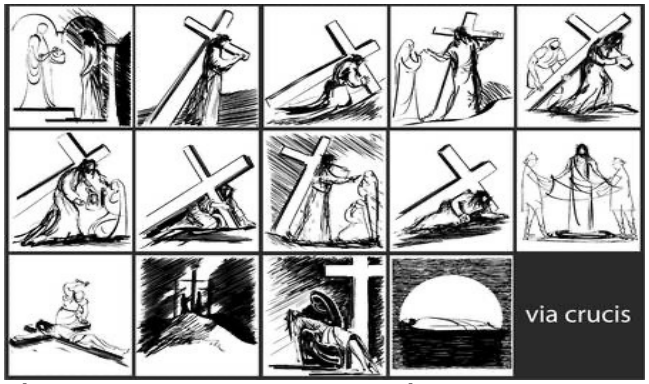
stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com 01977 790448

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).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT AND PASSIONTIDE

Found in the 'Lent/Holy Week' header on the St Giles website..



For **Stations of the Cross**, different booklets are provided for your personal use: one containing readings and poetry from Malcolm Guite, and a traditional booklet with the St Giles stations and accompanying readings and prayers. Another offering is from the Jesuits again with images and reflections in addition to readings. There is also a young person's stations of the cross **booklet and a children's** with images to colour in and a little verse to accompany the image.

Watch out! From Passion Sunday (21st March) to Easter Sunday (4th April), our Facebook page will be posted with a daily stations of the cross image along with reading and prayers.

Rhythm of Life—Lent Courses

There are two diocesan-wide Rhythm of Life courses running separately during the season of Lent. They will be running on:

- Wednesday Evenings between 7.30pm - 9.00pm (Wednesday 24th February - Wednesday 31st March)
- Thursday Mornings between 10.30am - 12.00 noon (Thursday 25th February - Thursday 1st April)

Both online courses consist of 6 weekly sessions throughout Lent. The course is running twice to accommodate people's availability and day/time preference. The course can serve as a stepping-stone for participant's further engagement with the Rhythm of Life venture. The sessions will provide an opportunity to engage with the seven Rhythm of Life areas for deepening commitment to: praying, reflecting, encouraging, sharing, resting, celebrating, and creating.

The sessions will be taking place online via Zoom. To register a place, please visit the Eventbrite pages:

Wednesday Evening course here

Thursday Morning course here

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 following details:

Account Name: St Giles PCC,

Sort code: 05-06-71 Account Number 16172795

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

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 or by leaving a message on the church phone (01977 790448). Please note that under GPDR 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.

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) and Vivienne Smales (stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com) just in case either is on holiday. The deadline for receipt of articles this month is Sunday, 21st February 2021.

Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation: FIVE TOP TIPS**

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.

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.

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

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.

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 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, 23rd 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 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.

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.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract

Twitter: @CofEPontefract & Instagram: stgilespontefract

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/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!