

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles' with St Mary*



March 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
- ◆ Refrain from socialising with people, in or out of church, who are not in your household.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PARISH OF PONTEFRACT

St Giles' with St Mary

A Prayer by Saint Benedict

Gracious and Holy Father,
give us the wisdom to discover You,
the intelligence to understand You,
the diligence to seek after You,
the patience to wait for You,
eyes to behold You,
a heart to meditate upon You,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Canon June writes:

We are very much looking forward to being able to welcome you back to church when **public services resume at St Giles on Passion Sunday- 5th Sunday of Lent, 21st March.**

Nonetheless, we do need your help on **Sunday, 21st March** which is our first Sunday back. **Please book in** by emailing the church at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com or phoning the office as soon as possible so that we can get some indication of numbers (01977 790448 please leave a message if no-one is available). Prior to the latest lockdown we comfortably managed the numbers and never exceeded our limits. However, we need to know how vaccinations might change that picture in terms of people wanting to attend public worship.

Whilst the national lockdown restrictions begin to ease, the guidelines for social distancing still need to be adhered to and we would ask you to continue to abide by these as set out on the opposite page.

We hope to offer the following services during Holy Week as outlined on the following page.

HOLY WEEK



We hope to be able to provide the following services during Holy Week. Please pay careful attention to the details.

SUNDAY, 28th March—PALM SUNDAY

10.15am Parish Eucharist to include reading of the Passion Story—please note there will be no procession (at St Giles and online)

6.00pm BCP Evensong (online only)

MONDAY, 29th March

7.00pm Eucharist and short address (at St. Mary's)

TUESDAY, 30th March

9.00am Morning Prayer (online only)

7.00pm Compline and short address (online only)

WEDNESDAY, 31st March

9.30am Eucharist and short address (at St Giles and online)

MAUNDAY THURSDAY, 1st April

7.00pm Eucharist with Watch (at St Giles and online)

GOOD FRIDAY, 2nd April

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy (at St Giles and online)

SATURDAY, 3rd April

8.00pm THE EASTER VIGIL including Mass (at St Giles)

SUNDAY, 4th April—THE MASS OF EASTER DAY

9.00am Parish Eucharist (at St Mary's)

10.15am Parish Eucharist (at St Giles and online)

St David's Day, 1st March: time for daffodils

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!



We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

A Spring Blessing by Malcolm Guite (From 'After Prayer' Canterbury Press, 2019)

With each unfolding seed, with every Spring,
He breathes the rumour of his resurrection,
As birdsong calls your hidden heart to sing.
So may this season be his benediction,
To lift your love, and bid your prayer take wing,
To thaw your frozen hope, to warm your mind,
For Spring has come! Can Heaven be far behind?

Compassionate God,

We pray for the safety of all children. Thank you for those who shoulder and share this responsibility, for every check that is made and each concern that is followed up. We pray that our schools can be places of sanctuary and peace, where all feel loved, cared for and safe. Amen.

Father God,

We pray for all of the relationships in our schools – those that are easy and those that are more challenging. Help us to understand one another better each day, so that we can all be part of a true community that is stronger together. Amen.

Holy Spirit,

We give thanks for the many wonderful opportunities in life that we didn't expect, for the unexpected joys that are found in learning new things. We give thanks for all who create life-changing opportunities for our young people to experience the 'life in all its fullness' that Jesus promised.

Living God,

You notice each one of us and care about all that we are. We give thanks for the uniqueness of every pupil and adult in school, their skills and talents, the things they enjoy, the worries they face. Help them to find direction and purpose in their living, loving and learning together, so that they can achieve all that you hope for them. Amen.

Lord Jesus,

We give thanks for the courage we find in our schools – to challenge injustice, to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions and sometimes, especially at the moment, in just making it through another day. Amen.

Loving God,

We pray for every worker in our school, whatever their role, those seen and those unseen. We give thanks for each one of them and for the faithfulness and resilience with which they serve. Amen.

Spirit of God,

We give you thanks for the many daily miracles that take place in our schools – each new moment of learning, each challenge overcome, each smile of encouragement. Help us to encourage each other as we journey together. Amen.

Lord God,

We celebrate the transformational power of education – each life changed for the better, each hope realised, each individual and community inspired and empowered to grasp a better future. Thank you for the Lent journey of our schools and for the opportunity to share it with them. Amen.

Thankyou...

We're delighted that there are so many parishes supporting our schools on their Rhythm of Life journeys, which began in Advent and continues with Lent and Easter.

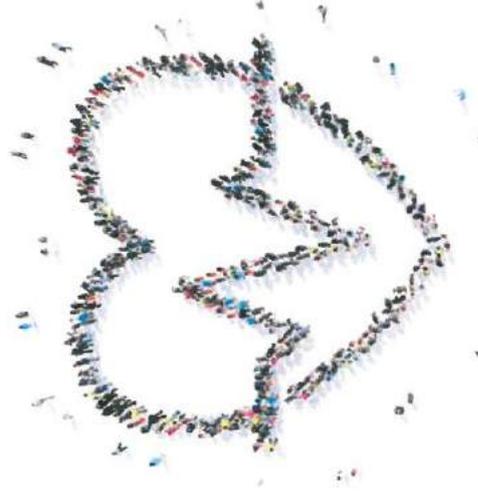
The resources explore **praying, encouraging, sharing, reflecting, celebrating, resting and creating.**

Every Church school in our diocese has a named adviser from the Diocesan Education Team. If you'd like to find out how else you could develop ways of working with church and non-church schools, email us at info.ed@leeds.anglican.org

Rhythm of Life:

Lent & Easter

**Opportunities to
support your
school's journey
through prayer**



Mondays

You might want to pray for:

- The safety of all children
- Headteachers as they make decisions in challenging circumstances
- Governors and all those who give their time as volunteers
- Those learning at home and missing school

Tuesdays

You might want to pray for:

- Teachers juggling work in school and remote learning
- Vulnerable and key worker pupils
- The school curriculum and the wide range of opportunities schools offer
- The families who make each school community unique

Wednesdays

You might want to pray for:

- Teaching Assistants and learning mentors with their many skills in supporting learning
- Each pupil with their many joys and challenges
- School buildings

Thursdays

You might want to pray for:

- Lunch time supervisors and catering staff
- Those training to teach and those who train them
- The power of friendship

Fridays:

You might want to pray for:

- School administrators and support staff
- The mental health and wellbeing of all in school
- Support agencies who work with schools
- Your local schools by name

Saturdays:

You might want to pray for:

- Collective worship and times shared together as a school community.
- Our own stories of life and faith
- The school vision that inspires the day to day life of school
- All who need encouraging today

Sundays:

You might want to pray for:

- The relationships between schools and churches
- Clergy and all those who support schools in their spiritual life
- All those who are exhausted and in need of rest

“It is my passionate belief that Church Schools are a gift to our society – serving the common good and equipping every person to flourish in a challenging, uncertain world.”

Archbishop of Canterbury

If you prefer, here are some prayers you could use to pray for your schools:

Loving God,

We pray for every person in our schools, giving thanks for the light, life and joy they bring to our communities. Help us too, to reflect that same light of Christ to others. Amen.

God to welcome,

Thank you for our schools as they offer a place of belonging and inclusion for all. Help us, like Jesus, to see the ultimate worth in everyone, that we can help all to find a place of true welcome. Amen.

Spirit of God,

We ask for your spirit of wisdom and understanding for those who lead our schools and your guidance for the many decisions they face. We pray you will guide and support them, that they will know your presence with them, on this and every day. Amen.

Lord of All,

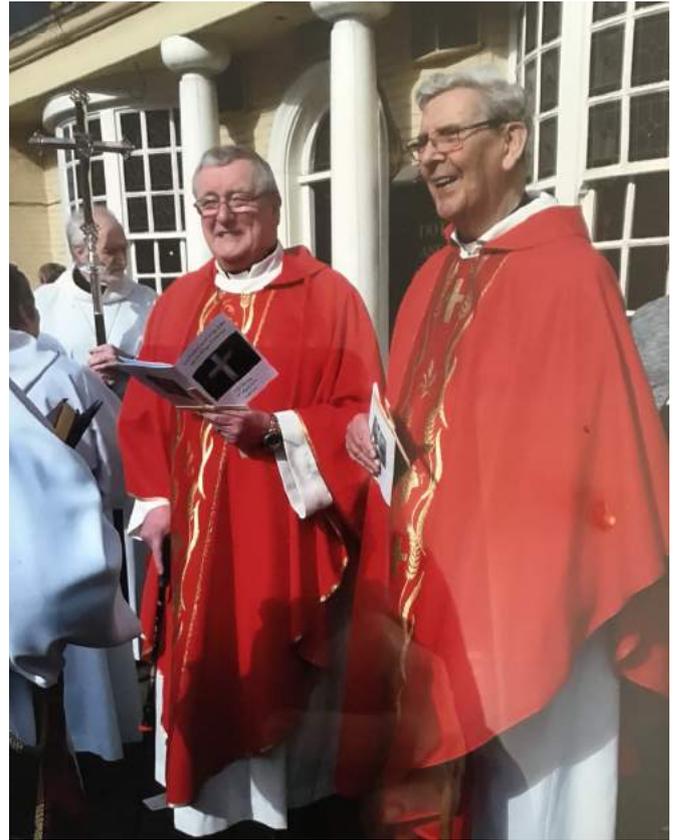
We pray for all who struggle with learning. Grant them patience, perseverance and courage we pray. As we remember them today, we remember all who help to remove barriers to learning. Amen.

Father God,

We pray for every family that makes up our school communities, for their joys and sorrows, for their hopes and dreams and for the gift of love that binds us all together. Amen.

Another rambling from Fr Michael

It is almost 10 years, give or take a month or two, since I joined you all at St Giles. How things have changed: all those steps to contend with; a pulpit to negotiate; Fr Bob to manage; Canon June; and Fr Roland (the other chuckle brother) to name but a few! Just a reminder who the chuckle brothers were.



The re-ordering of the church, some love it, like me; others like it as it was. There were some posts on Facebook quite recently indicating mixed views, interesting stuff. I have often said the re-ordering took place to help me!!

When I first came, somebody said “We will have to make adjustments for Fr Michael.” A bit extreme!!

Throughout our lives, adjustments have to be made, none more so than during the pandemic. Will things ever be as they were.....i doubt it.

Let’s go back a couple of thousand years. A baby, shepherds, wise men, you know the story. But how that baby transformed humanity. Put yourself in that period of time and ask the same question, “Will things ever be the same again?” A simple answer....NO!

The New Testament is littered with examples of how Jesus changed lives. The feeding of the 5000, raising of Lazarus, the restoration of sight, the healing of the paralysed man. Lives influenced.

A quote from H.G.Wells,

“I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very centre of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.”

When Jesus chose his disciples, how their lives changed. Fishermen, tax

collectors, zealots. It didn't matter who or what, but their lives changed forever. The influence is undeniable, and our lives have changed because of this. It's God's call. Even from an Auctioneer and surveyor to a Priest!

We all have problems, some more severe than others, to whom do we call? We give thanks when things turn out better, to whom do we thank? This is not a quiz and there are no prizes! A massive influence on our lives and what better influence. Throughout our lives we are influenced, by our parents, our peers and so it goes on.

To back where I started. 10 years. It is a pity that the last 12 months have been what they have been, but....light at the end of the tunnel.

May God Bless You all, keep you safe.

Fr Michael

14th March: Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

1st March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

Below is Caleb Lawson, aged 3 1/2, grandson of Canons June and John. The picture inspired a link with the poem below. The photo was taken a few days after snow had fallen and faded in Kent.

Because we hunkered down

These bleak and freezing seasons may mean grace
When they are memory. In time to come
When we speak truth, then they will have their place,
Telling the story of our journey home,
Through dark December and stark January
With all its disappointments, through the murk
And dreariness of frozen February,
When even breathing seemed unwelcome work.

Because through all of these we held together,
Because we shunned the impulse to let go,
Because we hunkered down through our dark weather,
And trusted to the soil beneath the snow,
Slowly, slowly, turning a cold key,
Spring will unlock our hearts and set
us free.

From 'Parable and Paradox',
by Malcolm Guite, Canterbury 2016



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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The Rhubarb Triangle

By the time you read this the forced rhubarb season will be in full swing, as it generally runs from January to the end of March. The sight of those brilliant red stalks and greeny/yellow leaves on the market stalls is a wonderful sight to see. But I've always wondered why the **Rhubarb Triangle** in West Yorkshire is known as it is. I'm sure many of you will know about it already.

Apparently the Rhubarb Triangle is a 9-square-mile (23 km²) area between Wakefield, Morley and Rothwell famous for producing early forced rhubarb and includes Kirkhamgate, East Ardsley, Stanley, Lofthouse and Carlton. The Rhubarb Triangle was originally much bigger, covering an area between Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield. From the 1900s to 1930s, the rhubarb industry expanded and at its peak covered an area of about 30 square miles (78 km²).

Although rhubarb is actually native to Siberia and thrives in the wet cold winters in Yorkshire (there should have been a bumper crop this year!), West Yorkshire once produced 90% of the world's winter forced rhubarb from the forcing sheds that were common across the fields.

The cultivation method for forced rhubarb was developed in the early 1800s. The fields were fertilised with large quantities of horse manure and 'night soil' (human waste) collected from the nearby urban areas and woollen waste from "mungo and shoddy" mills. The rhubarb plants spend two years out in the fields without being harvested. During that time they store energy from the sun in their roots as carbohydrates. The roots are subjected to frost before being moved into sheds in November where they are kept in complete darkness and begin to grow in the warmth. The stored carbohydrate in the roots is transformed into glucose resulting in forced rhubarb's sour-sweet flavour.

Forced rhubarb grown in the sheds is more tender than that grown outdoors in summer. Without daylight the rhubarb leaves are a green-yellow colour, and the stalks, measuring around 2 feet (61 cm), are crimson in colour with a smooth texture. Traditionally, the pickers pull the stalks by candlelight as any exposure to strong light will stop the growth. By the end of March the harvest is over and the rootstock is totally exhausted and used for compost.

Growing and forcing rhubarb was originally done by many hundreds of small farmers, smallholders and market gardeners using clay dome pots. In later years some growers expanded and owned many thousands of roots and extensive forcing sheds. In the late 19th century early forced rhubarb was



sent to Spitalfields and Covent Garden markets in London in time for Christmas and to Paris for the French market. A special express train carrying rhubarb was run by the Great Northern Railway Company from Ardsley station every weekday night during the season from Christmas until Easter. Up to 200 tons of rhubarb sent by up to 200 growers was carried daily at the peak of production before 1939. Sadly, rhubarb became less popular after the Second World War, when more exotic fruits became more available. In 1962, a rail strike caused the growers to look for alternative transport and the service ended shortly after.

Twelve farmers who farm within the Rhubarb Triangle applied to have the name "Yorkshire forced rhubarb" added to the list of foods and drinks that have their names legally protected by the European Commission's Protected Food Name scheme. The application was successful after being recommended by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the farmers in the Rhubarb Triangle were awarded Protected Designation of Origin status (PDO) in February 2010.

A permanent exhibition about forced rhubarb is on display at Wakefield Museum. * It may well have been the shortage of sugar during the war which led to rhubarb's decline in popularity. (*Michael Portillo: Great British Railway Journeys, episode 14.*)

Another of my mum's favourite recipes, Rhubarb crumble cake, can be found on the following page.

Enjoy!

Vivienne Smales

Rhubarb Crumble Cake

Ingredients	Method
250g butter, softened	1. Heat oven to 160C/140C/gas 3
250g golden caster sugar, plus 1tbsp	2. Grease and line the base and sides of a deep 20cm round cake tin with a little of the butter and baking parchment.
2 tsp vanilla extract	3. Put the butter, 250g sugar and vanilla into a big mixing bowl and beat until light and fluffy with an electric whisk.
5 large eggs	4. Beat in the eggs, one by one, then fold in the 300g flour and baking powder.
300g plain flour, plus an extra 7 tbsp.	5. Spoon out 85g of the batter, and stir the extra 7 tbsp of flour and cinnamon into this with a cutlery knife so that it becomes crumbly, then set aside.
2 tsp baking powder	6. Fold the rhubarb into the rest of the cake batter and scrape into the prepared tin.
1 tsp ground cinnamon	7. Scatter over the crumble mix followed by 1tbsp of sugar.
300g rhubarb, washed, trimmed and finely sliced	8. Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes, until a skewer poked in comes out clean – you'll need to lay a sheet of foil on top after an hour if the cake is browning too much. Cool for 15 minutes in the tin, then finish on a wire rack.

Top Tip: If it doesn't turn out quite as you expect, don't panic - just serve with cream or custard and no one will ever know it was supposed to be a cake!

3rd February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters

We are writing to say how grateful we are to you and every member of our Diocesan Community for contributing to Parish Share. Your contribution goes to support mission and ministry in every corner of the Diocese of Leeds. Together parishes have given £11.7m which, in the face of the challenges during 2020, is a remarkable achievement.

As the spring turned into summer, it became apparent that the financial situation for many parishes was looking bleak, yet it was incredibly heartening to see many adapting and being creative, including adopting online technology to continue to receive gifts.

In the autumn, we wrote to you about the financial position across the Diocese and asked you to consider if there was anything more you could do to support the mission of the church. In response, we heard many stories of generosity and we are humbled by the response of PCCs and parishioners. People who had no money to spare, reached deep into their pockets to contribute whatever they could to their church family; PCCs used reserves, grants and legacy gifts to ensure that Share payments were made; and parishes helped neighbouring parishes to pay Share. These are just some of the inspiring examples of generosity we have seen in recent months.

In responding to God's love and generosity you have listened and responded to one another's needs. You have been grateful and generous and shared responsibility to see that ministry and mission is supported in every community in our Diocese.

Since we last wrote, we have received a £1m grant from the Church Commissioners Sustainability Fund as well as some very generous gifts from churches and individuals. These gifts, along with savings we have made through careful and proactive stewardship have reduced the impact of Parish Share being £2.3m below our budget. We know that this coming year will remain tough for many, and there are difficult decisions ahead. But we are weathering the storm together and we are confident that the Diocese has the right plans in place to ensure a secure financial footing for the future.

As we look forwards, let us ask for God's help in sustaining and growing the work of our churches throughout the Diocese.

We are grateful for all you are doing and continue to hold you in our prayers.

With our prayers and gratitude,



Bishop Nick Baines



Jonathan Wood

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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 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



NOTES FROM THE PCC MEETING, HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM

15 members of the PCC were present and two gave their apologies.

The **deanery allocations for Diocesan Synod in 2021** have been received with the parish having an allocation of 3 clergy and 3 lay representatives. Elections will take place between April and July.

With the announcement of the third **national lockdown**, The Standing Committee agreed to the temporary closure of St Giles with St Mary's. The Archdeacon and the Bishop of Leeds were informed of the rationale behind the decision, and an email was subsequently received from the Bishop granting the dispensation. The congregation were informed of the decision via a direct email and inclusion of the same information in the weekly Notices.

The PCC passed a resolution regarding the temporary closure for public worship from January 17th until Ash Wednesday 17th February 2021, with a review to be made prior to this date. The PCC also agreed that, when appropriate, they were happy for the Standing Committee to make the decision as to when public worship could resume.

Following a discussion surrounding **Livestreaming** at the last meeting, a new camera and tripod have subsequently been purchased, thanks to a donation being received. A professional review of the sound system has now taken place and the recommendation is that 2 new microphones with transmitters and receivers are bought. The 'speakers' in church work well and the sound desk itself does not need replacing at the moment. The PCC agreed to the purchase of 2 new microphones as above and the small repair of the lectern mike wiring.

There were no **Safeguarding** issues to report other than ongoing Safeguarding training for new members and completion of DBS checks.

A **Finance** report had previously been circulated, which showed that along with the 2020 budget being set with a deficit (£10k), as a result of the pandemic **St Giles' church** had incurred additional losses of £27K. This was due to a number of factors including: a reduction in gift aided (and non-gift aided) free will offerings and cash; church funeral fees; baptism and funeral collections; magazine printing; refreshments; votive candle sales and the annual draw. The loss was largely offset by transfers from reserves; grants received by the centre (£5K); and a donation (£1K). It was noted that the parish share for 2020 was paid in full.

The **St Giles' Centre** budget for 2020 suffered significant loss of income

(due to limited rental receipts) despite the receipt of local authority grants. This was mainly due to paying a share of the full church utilities and staff wages. The overall account for 2020 remains in surplus due to reserves.

The provisional **budget for 2021 for St Giles Church** has been set based on the first 6 months of the year not trading properly due to the pandemic and 6 months trading in normal terms. A deficit budget will be set with a need to draw down from reserves. The Parish Share for 2021 is £50,574 for St Giles and £4,398 for St Mary's. The provisional **budget for 2021 for the Centre** has been set with room rentals assumed from May resulting with a predicted loss. Both budgets for 2021 was agreed unanimously.

Whilst the diocesan **fees** had increased slightly this year, the PCC proposed that there should be no increase to local fees, items such as heating, printing, cleaning etc. The fees for 2021 were accepted.

A **Fabric, Health & Safety** had previously been circulated. The company who overhauled the bells last year, had written offering a 25% reduction to the quotation given for work on the bell tower, last overhauled in 1926. This offer will be accepted as it will save the church significant expense, but also help to secure work for a company who provide a very specific skillset.

A request to replace the ropes in the tower which are coming to the end of their 'legal' life was approved.

Electrical works are soon to be carried out to install a new socket close to the photocopier in the Choir Vestry. Minor work was also undertaken in the office recently to sort out cabling issues. Work on the South Aisle roof is now due to commence in May. The covid Risk Assessment continues to be updated.

The **St Giles' Centre Management Committee** were unable to meet in person so an update was emailed to members along with supporting documents. The Foodbank now has 12 members who have joined the scheme. Paul and Ann Harris are taking care of the deliveries themselves during the current lockdown, but will hopefully be able to use volunteers once the restrictions are eased.

The **APCM** has been set for **Sunday, 25th April** in the hope that it will be able to take place. The deadline for all APCMs to be concluded now 31st May.

Chair's Notes

1. St Giles' has been asked to host the Licensing of Readers/LLMs on Sunday, 3 October at 3.30pm
2. An online Lent course is to be run on Wednesdays, between 4.00pm and 5.00pm, hosted via Zoom.

25th March: Lady Day or The Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

28th March: Palm Sunday, Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.



A Stitch in Time



Alterations for all occasions

Sarah Brightmore
Owner

sarahsbright1996@gmail.com

16 Gillygate
Pontefract
WF8 1PQ
07449501045

Could you
fill this space?
It can earn
money for a
local business
and for the
Church.

Tiddlywinks

Service and Fun for the
'Under 5s'

+ their Parent, Grandparent or Carer

Thursdays

(during term time)

At St Giles' Church

10.30 a.m. till 11.45a.m.

Refreshments available - small donation

COME AND JOIN US



Andrew J. Peaker

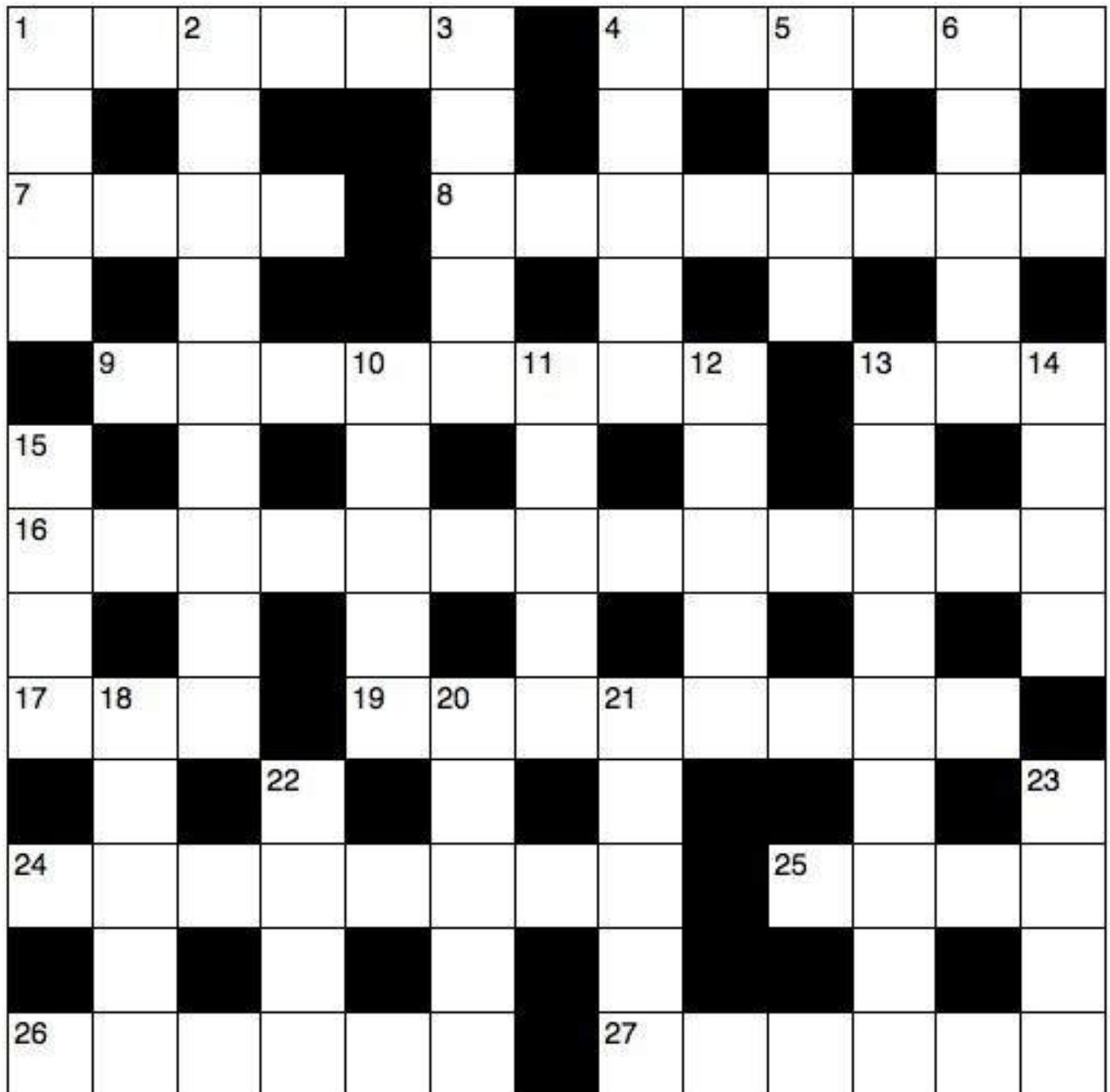
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Crossword



Clues

Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)

- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

Answer on page 41



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AJK Legal Services are specialists in the preparation and writing of Wills and Lasting Power of Attorneys.

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Citizens Advice Wakefield District continue to offer a full range of advice and help during the lockdown period.

We can help with benefits claims including advice and support on setting up claims for Universal Credit; we can help you deal with debts and give advice if your employment has been affected.

We are free, confidential, independent and impartial

We are able to offer advice & assistance via telephone, email or webchat

(Debt/Benefits/Housing/Employment/Family)

Telephone 03444 111 444

(Universal Credit – Help to Claim)

Telephone 0800 144 8 444

(Consumer goods, services, digital, events, travel etc.)

Telephone 0808 223 1133

Email us via

www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk

Web chat with us at

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.

News from Mara Majengo Parish—from a recent email

Dear Canon June Lawson, praise God (Bwana Asifiwe)

The Anglican Church Majengo Parish has received your greetings during this Lent period. The Majengo Parish has sent a lot of greetings to St. Giles with St. Mary's.

It is very sad to hear that your Church life has ceased missing fellowship and friendship, it is our worry to how much the Church has been affected.

We have been praying for your church, but this Sunday Majengo Parish shall hold special prayers for St. Giles and the entire Christian community affected by the COVID pandemic

In Tanzania COVID is behind the curtains as the government does not release any data in regards to CORONA. People are not aware of the cases and statistics

We don't have lockdowns, but the ministry of health advices for precautions against diseases (wearing of masks, social distance, hand washing with running water, early treatment of diseases etc)

All activities are going on as usual under such precautions (people are going to churches, markets, schools and all other social services provision centres)

Thanks for your collection this Lent, it will help the Church in many ways

Despite all the difficulties we also request for prayers in the following Church Projects:

1. **Construction of the pastor's house**, is now on the foundation stage
2. **Our nursery school project is going on**
3. **Evangelism** is in progress in the whole region despites the increment of many new Churches in the area
4. **Cereals selling project is running** .We look forward to having a milling machine for easy selling of millable cereals
5. **The Church choir**. The two Church Choirs are doing good, but the equipments are getting more old and needs replacement with new and modern ones.

May you stay blessed, Yours in Christ

Canon Jacob- Pastor Majengo Parish



Rev Jacob ordaining Church elders (Majengo Parish) for 2021/2022 after being elected by church members. These are just some of them, others were ordained the week before.



The Tumaini Choir singing while the Sunday Class is prepared to be in their session.

Y.M.C.A. Charity Shop

YMCA Charity Shop, Horsefair, Pontefract.

Large white goods, menswear and furniture urgently needed.

Please ring 01977 792679 for free collection.

Help us transform the lives of young people in your area by donating your unwanted goods.



Sudoku

			1	6		
	4		6	8		9
7					3	
5	2				1	4
	8				2	3
4		5	2			
2	5	3	1			
7		9	4			
1						

Easy

Medium

7	9			8		6
					4	
5			2	4		
	3			7		5
9	6					8
	1			6		3
2	8					6
			1	7		2

God in the Arts

On the 25th March the church celebrates the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Ecce Ancilla Domini' by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. It hangs in the Tate Gallery. Our image is from Wikimedia Commons.



Behold the handmaid of the Lord

'*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' (Behold the handmaid of the Lord) is the title of this month's painting of the Annunciation by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. We shall hear those words in the Gospel for this feast on 25th March, when Mary responds to Gabriel's message that she is to be the mother of our Saviour.

It is a scene that has inspired artists throughout the history of Christianity. Over those years certain traditions emerged: in many paintings Mary was often shown at prayer, dressed in blue, in a room that was filled with elaborate furnishings of the period, all opening out onto the wider world.

Rossetti's painting of 1850 is very different. He was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and as both a poet and a painter, he soon became its recognised leader. But the work of the Brotherhood was not without its critics. When Rossetti's painting was exhibited, it was dismissed as 'absurd, affected, ill-drawn, insipid, crotchety and puerile' because it was such a contrast to the more traditional portrayals of this scene in Luke's Gospel.

Here there is a claustrophobic feel to the painting. Mary and Gabriel fill the tiny, cell-like room. There is a window, but it does not open out to scenery and nature: just a solitary tree. Rossetti called '*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' his 'white picture.' That is the colour that dominates: the robes of Mary and the angel, the stones of the floor, the paint on the walls, the flowers that Gabriel offers. Blue, the traditional colour for Mary, is relegated to the screen behind and

the sky outside. Other colours are provided by the yellow flames of Gabriel's feet and the tapestry in the foreground on which Mary has embroidered lilies. These flowers, like the whiteness, are symbols of purity.

The model for Mary was Christina, his sister, the author of 'In the bleak mid-winter', and in portraying her, Rossetti has captured the adolescent vulnerability of Mary. A small dove linking the two characters is a sign of God's spirit coming to bring new life to this young girl. How does she respond? What is the expression on her face? Does she see the adult world of responsibility and motherhood opening up before her? Is it anxiety or wonder or awe? Or are all of these responses captured in her expression?

The stillness of the scene, the whiteness of the room – they are like a blank canvas on which God can paint His Gospel, His Good News of life and hope. Just as it opened up a new world for Mary, so the Gospel can open up a new world for all of us. We may respond with anxiety and worry, or with wonder and awe to that invitation. Or those feelings may be transformed into trust and service like Mary in Luke's Gospel: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word.'

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.

What will March bring? Mental health ideas for uncertain times

We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year. On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of Spring, and vaccinations and better weather may make handling the pandemic a little easier. On the other hand, marking a year from the start of the first UK lockdown will be painful for some, especially as many of us are likely to be experiencing restrictions or ongoing hardships for quite some time. We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

Getting outside

Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you – and you can't argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise. Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood, and increased life satisfaction. Enjoying creation can also help us connect with God.

Looking outside

If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!

Lament and praise

The Psalms are a rich resource to help us express both our grief and our thanks to God. Try reading one or two each day.

Journaling

Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is now recognised as a very powerful psychological and spiritual tool for building resilience. It is also a vital learning tool that we can go back to when tough times return in the future.

Acts of kindness

Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Whichever way you look at it, finding new ways to show kindness to others can be a very effective way to help ourselves feel better too.

Gratitude

Gratitude is another natural drug – in a sense – that can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

Laugh, sing, make music, dance

All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel, especially in times of sadness, but we can learn from children who do them very naturally.

I hope these ideas may help bring us closer to God, each other, and His creation.

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.



W hc-one.co.uk
T 0333 999 8603
E careline@hc-one.co.uk
A Ladybalk Lane, Pontefract,
West Yorkshire, WF8 1JQ

In St Giles, but where?

1. What will you find at the top of 33 steps?
2. Will you hear a 'plain hunt' or a 'fox hunt' around St Giles on a Sunday morning?
3. Where in St Giles will you find a 'Sally'?
4. I am metal with the inscription Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus. What am I?
5. What does the Latin word 'tintinnabulation' mean?
6. When is music a method and a method music?
7. I am very loud and I weigh 18cwt. What am I?

Karen Glynn

Answers on Page 41



Pontefract Events 2021



PONTEFRACT
CIVIC SOCIETY

For more information, please visit
www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/events



Events scheduled for March 2021

Mar 9

[“The History of Rowntree’s”](#)

An online talk by Karen Adams, 7.00pm—8.30pm

Members should email Paul Cartright to register interest for this free event, covered by your membership fee.

Non-members should register on [Eventbrite](#) where there is a modest charge.

Should non-members wish to join Pontefract Civic Society, you can do so via their website:

[Annual Membership – Pontefract Civic Society](#)

Mar 27-31

Virtual Community Showcase

Events scheduled for April 2021

Apr 13

“Votes for Women”

An online talk by Erick Jackson

You can only laugh

Definitions from church life

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of a formal Sung Eucharist, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

Knock knock

A conscientious minister decided to get acquainted with a new family in his church and so he visited them one Spring evening. After his knock on the door, a lilting voice from within called out, "Is that you, Angel?"

"No," replied the minister. "But I'm from the same department."

Switched on

A housewife was helping her aged mother get up the stairs on their brand-new stair lift when the minister telephoned her. He was horrified to hear her say: "I'm so sorry, but I'll have to ring you back. I can't talk right now because I've finally got Mother in the electric chair and I'm eager to press the switch and see if it works!"

If you have a contribution for the Parish Magazine, whether it be a photograph, a notice, a report or a reminiscence, please just write it down and hand it to Vivienne or Bruce, or email it to **both** in case one or other is on holiday etc.

What three things would you like to do when covid is over? Let us know and we'll see if there is a common theme!

brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

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

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

Funerals in February

Fred Arnold; Harry Bramley; Philip Heckingbottom

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

Year's mind. We give thanks for the lives of:- **Mar 1** Nancy Atkinson; Arthur Haigh; Beatrice Hopwood **2** Olive May Hyomes **3** Irene Lavine; Josiah Worrell **4** Margaret Carter; Charles Henry Coverdale **5** Ernest Sambrooks **7** Richard Haigh **10** Mary Conway **12** Kenneth Wilson Frankland; Alan John Spedding; Terry Taylor **15** Kath Taylor **17** Robert Haley Milnes **20** Hilary Dalglish **23 Evelyn** Clark **24** Stanley Taylor; Roger Michael Whitaker **25** Ida Swann **28** Donald Chessman

*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 Dalglish	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
07/03/2021 3rd of 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>				
14/03/2021 4th of Lent Mothering Sunday	10.15 am. Eucharist					
21/03/2021 5th of Lent Passiontide begins	Please see website for info.					
28/03/2021 Palm Sunday	10.15 am. Eucharist					

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings
07/03/2021 3rd of Lent	<p>Here are the readings for the Sunday services in March</p>				Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22
14/03/2021 4th of Lent Mothering Sunday					Exodus 2.1-10 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 Luke 2.33-35
21/03/2021 5th of Lent Passiontide begins					Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33
28/03/2021 Palm Sunday					Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11.1-11 Liturgy of the Passion: Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 14.1 to end of 15

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 19th February **Friday 26th February** **Friday 5th March**
Friday 12th March **Friday 26th March**

Please email Caroline 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](#)

Dear Colleagues,

Two free online Vocation webinars are being run by the Director of Lay Training (Rev'd Dr Hayley Matthews) and the Director of Ordinands & Vocations (Rev'd Canon Derek Walmsley). They are an opportunity for individuals to hear about, discuss, and explore different vocational pathways in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds. These webinars will be a good opportunity for individual's discerning their vocation to talk to people who have trained as a Lay Minister or Priest. The webinars are taking place on two separate occasions to enable more people to attend depending on their availability:

- Wednesday 03 March 2.30pm - 4.30pm
- Thursday 04 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

The webinars will include people who have been licenced/authorised to a Lay Ministry, such as, Lay Pastoral Ministers, Lay Worship Leaders, and Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers). It will also include a member of the Diocesan Vocations team who will talk about vocations to the Priesthood.

If you know of anybody who is currently discerning their vocation to either a Lay or Ordained Ministry, or might be open to exploring one of these pathways, then please encourage them to attend one of these webinars and send them the information/ eventbrite links.

The sessions will be taking place via Zoom. To register, please visit the Eventbrite page for the event: Wednesday, 03 March ([here](#)) or Thursday, 04 March ([here](#))

Best wishes,

Lay Training Team

Crossword Answers:

P	L	A	N	E	T		R	U	G	G	E	D	
A		D				R	I		U		X		
T	R	U	E			A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S
H		L				C		I		T		D	
	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E			B	E	D
S		E		R		R		S		L		E	
P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	I	O	N	
E		E		S		E		U		N		Y	
W	A	R		H	I	L	L	S	I	D	E		
	W		O		D		Y			N		L	
B	A	L	D	H	E	A	D			B	E	D	E
	K		E		A		I			S		A	
C	E	N	S	U	S		A	R	I	S	E	N	

In St Giles, but where? Answers:

1. Ringing room
2. Plain hunt
3. Ringing room
4. No. 3 bell
5. Ringing or sound of bells
6. A 'method' is bell ringing music
7. Tenor bell

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: 07746 980727
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 Dalgleish 07809 760993

Barbara Sessford 699058

Peter Lavine 799929

Pam Mercer 780804

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 Dalgleish 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 Families

Dear Father God,

In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.

As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive – and to strengthen others by the love we give.

May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus – who is alive – and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family. Thank you for the love and security we have in you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

St Giles' Guide Book



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only £3