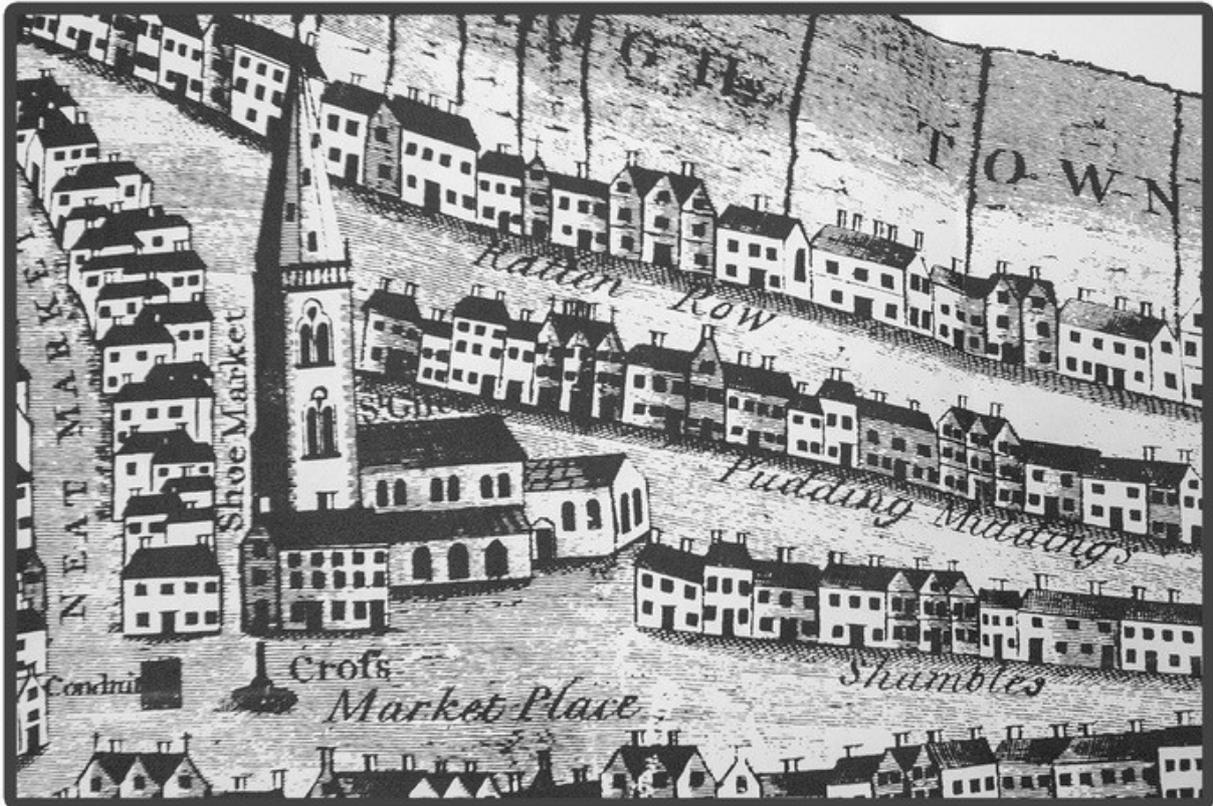


*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles' with St Mary*



June 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

Canon June writes:

A few weeks ago I returned to my home town to the parish church where as a teenager I sang in the church choir. I returned to bury my mum's ashes in the Garden of Remembrance. Alongside me were members of my family who could be present. We were of course working with the Covid limitations of 15. It wasn't the best of days, weather wise, but the usual Lancashire rain held off until we were in a marquee, knees wrapped in blankets, with a sizeable rainstorm battering the sides. To say we were chilled is putting it mildly! To coin a Peter Kay phrase 'it certainly wasn't spitting!'

Returning 'home' not least because of the sadness of the occasion, evoked memories of times past. Much of my home town looks the same, but landmarks have gone: the Girls' Grammar school I attended demolished, the numerous mills similarly reduced over many years to piles of dust. Chamley's book shop, where we trooped to choose books for prize day, long gone. The Market Hall by the church where I once worked for 'Shah' selling women's clothing, now 'little Asda.' The rugby club has moved more out of town for grander status, a 'sports village' now alongside the new retail parks. The General Infirmary where my dad worked now reduced to a 'Walk-In Centre' and a place for outpatient's appointments. Finding my way around the one-way system(s) which snake through the streets, was nothing other than frustrating. The constant 'no entry' signs have turned the town into an impenetrable maze. It felt odd not to find my way easily around my home town.

Some friends and members of the family have flown to pastures new, but many have died who were alive when I grew up in the town: my grandma, grandad and now both parents. John's family tells a similar story.

I have of course been returning to my home town several times a year since I left for university in 1980, but on that day I noticed the changes more.

It would have been easy to simply lament that life as I knew it had gone, but having had a momentary inner grumble, I saw the selfishness in trying to hold onto things as I wanted to remember them. I won't visit my home town in the same way that I have done so. My mum's home was the centre to which we were all drawn as family who now live in disparate places. Someone else

now draws their family into that homely space on Hanover Street: the 'Sold' sign has been and gone.

The town has formed me, family life has shaped me, 'communities' of school, church and leisure, moulded me. Who I am today is rooted in who I was then. The same for each of you. All of us bring our past into our present.

As a church community we are a canvas of individual stories, a rich tapestry of histories and experiences. Our stories matter, however ordinary they might feel.

Much of my life has been 'ordinary', perhaps you feel that of yours. This month in the liturgical calendar we enter 'Ordinary Time' and the robes and frontals in church stay green for a long period. Green is a sign of life in nature, it represents the growth, life and hope inherent in each new day. So, however ordinary we may feel our stories to have been, what will represent growth, life and hope for us as we live each day. Maybe each evening as we prepare to sleep, we can ask ourselves 'where might the green shoots have been today!' Then thank God for his goodness.

Every blessing.

Canon June

The Royal British Legion celebrated their Centenary on 15th May 2021 - No, it's not Remembrance just yet, but the work of the RBL is worthy of commemoration.

On Sunday 15 May 1921, a small group of ex-Servicemen and representatives from the four organisations, The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers, The Comrades of The Great War and The Officers' Association walked to the [Cenotaph, in London's Whitehall](#). As Big Ben struck nine, the four men representing the organisations laid a wreath with the badges of the four organisations that would officially unite to form the British Legion.

The following day the constitution was presented to and agreed by 700 delegates at the Unity Conference in London. The then Prince of Wales was also invited to become the British Legion's first Patron, whilst Earl Haig was appointed as the British Legion's first President and Sir Frederick Lister the National Chairman.

The British Legion was founded by and for Armed Forces personnel and as a demonstration of its attitude towards its members the constitution was proposed by a soldier and seconded by a General - there would be no distinction between rank, religion or political affiliation.

In the early years of the newly formed British Legion, founder and President Earl Haig worked tirelessly championing the needs of the Armed Forces, launching the [Poppy Day](#) Appeal in 1921 and helping to shape modern Remembrance.

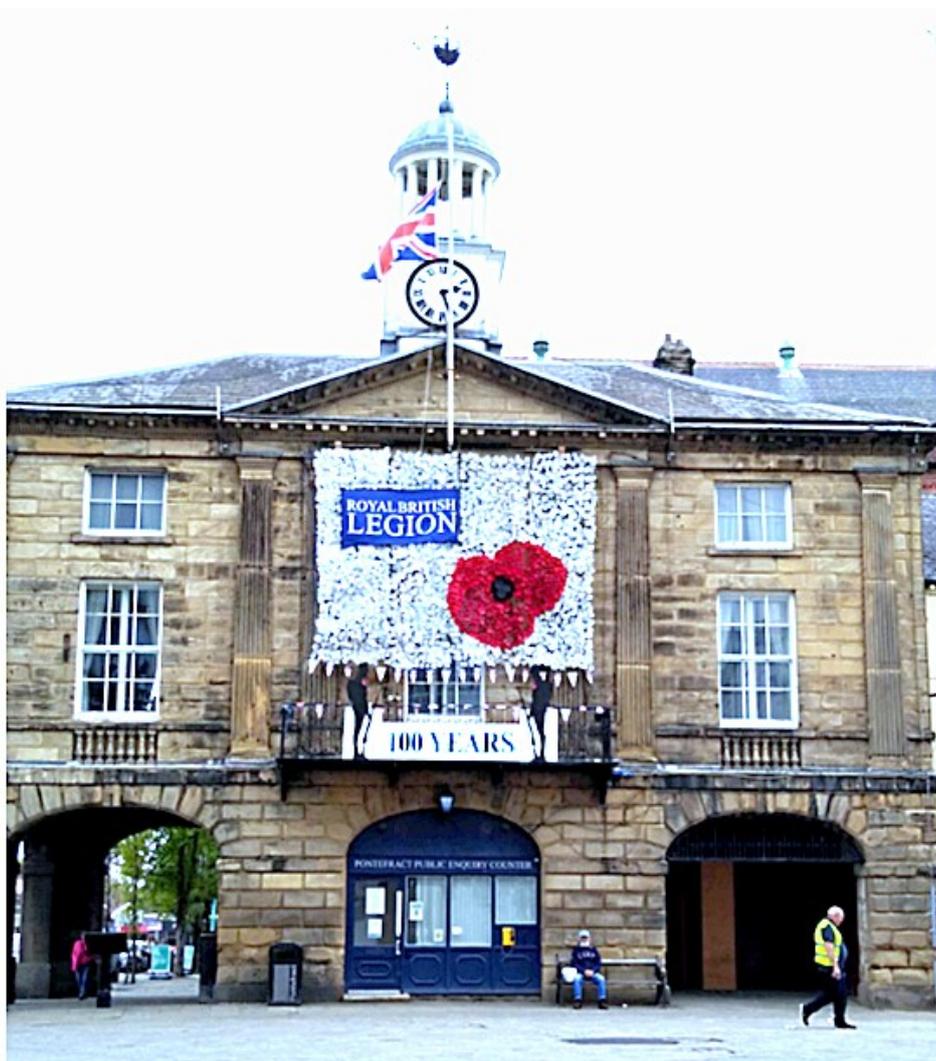
On 27 January 1928 Haig visited the Poppy Factory in Richmond and greeted a group of scouts. Sadly, the next day at the age of 66 he died suddenly. It was a devastating loss to the British Legion but his commitment to always put duty before self had earned him the undying devotion from its members and leaves a legacy that is still felt within RBL today.

100 years on the Royal British Legion continues Earl Haig's legacy ensuring all members of the Armed Forces can live dignified and fulfilled lives through their ongoing welfare and campaigning work, whilst remembering those who have given their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Today we're at the heart of a national network looking after our Armed Forces community.

RBL is here to help serving and ex-serving personnel all year round, every day of the week. Our support starts after seven days of service and continues through life, long after service is over.

Copyright: Royal British Legion. For more information, please visit: www.royalbritishlegion.co.uk



Remembering Prince Philip

This month (10th June) the Duke of Edinburgh would have turned 100. This article is from the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent tribute to him in the House of Lords.

“We have thanked God for Prince Philip’s life of extraordinary service. There are some rare people who bring energy into a room - the Duke of Edinburgh was very much one of those people. His presence lifted a gathering. He might have challenged and interrogated, but whatever he said, he never bored anyone.

"The Duke of Edinburgh had a profound moral imagination, extra-ordinary foresight and even vision. He saw the world not just as it is but as it could and should be, as worked out in his commitment to young people, especially through the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, to the Commonwealth, to our Armed Forces, and to engineering, technology and design... In Edmund Burke’s words, he had an instinctive sense that the social contract was found in the traditions we inherit from the past, in our obligations to the present and in our responsibility to those yet to be born.

"His genuine and deep sense of humility and his service came from the same place, which was his faith... He had a sincere Christian faith absolutely untainted by false piety... He understood deeply how important faith is for the vast majority of the world’s population. He engaged the rich diversity of faiths within the UK and the Commonwealth. He was a pioneer in recognising the crucial role that faith leaders play in advocating for creation care. He was literally half a century ahead of his time in this area.”

We also give thanks and pray for the Queen, who celebrates her ‘official’ 95th birthday on 12th June.

Front Cover image:

As you will have read, Canon June has seen many changes in her home town. Much has changed in Pontefract in recent years, but its history goes back a long way. This month's cover picture shows part of a plan of Pontefract as it was in the 17th century, around the time of the Civil War. This extract from our guide book, which, of course, you have read from cover to cover, will help to explain. See how many differences you can spot from the town as we know it today.

The picture on the front cover depicts St Giles' on a map drawn up at the time of the Civil War. The **15th Century broach spire** is clearly visible, as are the street names: Neat Market (from an Old English word for livestock) where animals were sold; Shoe Market, which still exists today although without the cobblers; Shambles, the street of the butchers, now the Market Hall; Pudding Middings (Middens) where the butchers are thought to have thrown their waste; and Ratten Row, poor and possibly rat infested! **St Oswald's Cross** stands where the Buttercross was later built in 1734. The Conduit, to the left of the cross, exists today in the form of a hand pump at the side of the Buttercross.

11th June – Barnabas

Paul's first missionary companion

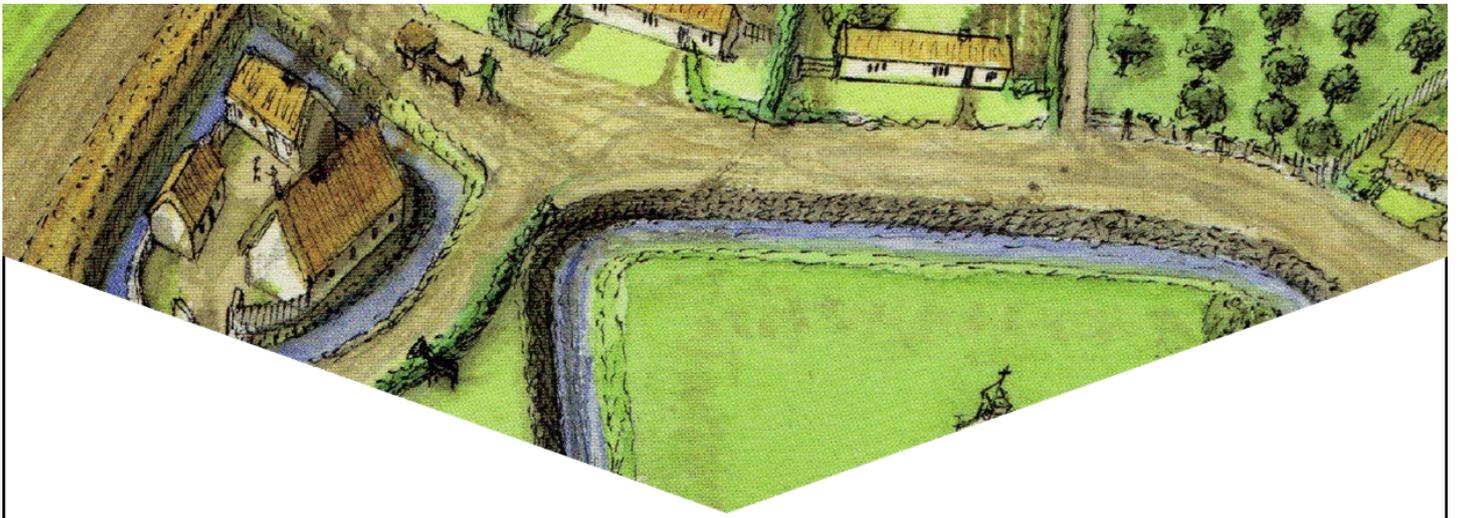
Would you have liked to go to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament. He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the Early Church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement'.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to 'set aside' Barnabas and Paul, and to send them out on the church's first ever 'missionary journey'. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and then travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So, if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

In England there are 13 ancient church dedications and not a few modern ones. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.



Medieval Leeds

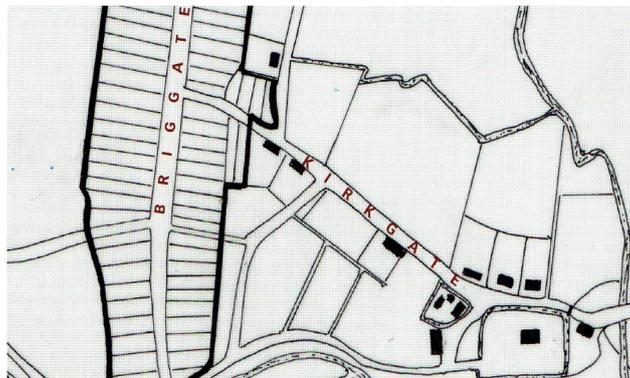
We think of Leeds as one of our great Victorian cities. But it appears in the Domesday Book in 1086 as one of the holdings of Ilbert de Lacy, first Baron of Pontefract.

Tuesday, 8th June 2021
Online event
7.00pm—8.30pm

This illustrated lecture by Professor Joyce Hill looks at what we know about Leeds from before the Norman Conquest, and then traces its development up to c. 1500.

Tickets **must** be booked via Eventbrite at: www.eventbrite.co.uk

Search: **Medieval Leeds**



20th June—Fathers' Day, a time to celebrate male role models

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June (20th) is Father's Day. It's usually a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, how about a Zoom meeting?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19th, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Summer Solstice, 20th June 2021

Longest day of the year

June, of course, is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol* + *stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here are some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.

A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.
St Francis of Assisi
God in All
He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven.

A prayer of St Patrick

24th June—John the Baptist

Preparing the way for the Messiah

John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman. He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request. When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.

An update form the Tower

Last year saw the church invest in the maintenance of the bells in the tower at St Giles. During the refurbishment it was noted that the metal frame which is used to hang the bells on had not been painted since it was installed some 100 years ago. Although the frame is still in very good condition most of it was no longer being protected by a coat of paint and surface rust was evident in several places. The recommendation from the experts was to have the entire frame repainted. This would consist of removing any old flaking paint, priming the whole of the frame and then applying a good quality topcoat.

Work on the frame is difficult as the frame itself is large and in several places there is not much room between it and the tower walls or the bells. It was decided that the job should be done professionally to ensure a long

lasting result and so the firm who carried out the maintenance work were invited to tender for repainting the bell frame. On Monday 12th April 2021 TLB services returned to St Giles to start painting the frame with a time estimate of two weeks. To date the contractors have been on site for the two weeks they originally quoted for but have not managed to complete the job and so plan to return in May. The headstocks of the bells are being painted “John Deere” green with a grey paint for the rest of the frame. The bell wheels are also being painted black.

In a bell tower there is always work that could be done, but once this painting is complete I do not think there are any other tasks that need to be undertaken as a matter of urgency. The bellringers are looking forward to the lifting of COVID restrictions to enable the bells to be rung for Sunday service. We are comforted in the knowledge that the time we have not been able to ring together has been well spent ensuring the wonderful bells are preserved for the next generation. When you are next walking to church and hear the bells ringing out please spare a thought for all the people who have worked so hard to make sure the bells of St Giles remain one of the finest rings of 10 bells anywhere in England.

Adrian Garner



29th June – Feast of SS Peter and Paul – the two most famous apostles who share a feast day.

St Peter, ‘the Rock’

St Peter (d. c. 64AD), originally called Simon, was a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He met Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Jesus gave him the name of Cephas (Peter) which means rock. Peter is always named first in the list of apostles. He was one of the three apostles who were privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.

When Peter made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus recognised it as being the result of a revelation from the Father. He in turn told Peter that he would be the rock on which His Church would be built, that the ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against it. Peter and the apostles would have the power of ‘binding and loosing’, but Peter would be personally given ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Jesus also forewarned Peter of his betrayal and subsequent strengthening of the other apostles. After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter before the other apostles, and later entrusted him with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock.

Peter played a big part in the early Church, and he is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts, where in the early chapters he organised the choice of Judas’ successor, preached with stirring authority at Pentecost; and was the very first apostle to work a miracle. Peter went on to defend the apostles’ right to teach at the Sanhedrin, and to condemn Ananias and Sapphira. It was Peter who first realised that Christianity was also for the Gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius. Later he took a prominent part in the council at Jerusalem and went on to clash with St Paul at Antioch for hesitating about eating with Gentiles.

Early tradition links Peter with an apostolate and martyrdom at Rome. The New Testament does not tell us either way, but Peter being in Rome would make sense, especially as Peter’s first epistle refers to ‘Babylon’, which was usually identified with Rome. Peter’s presence in Rome is mentioned by early church fathers such as Clement of Rome and Irenaeus. Tradition also tells us that Peter suffered under Nero and was crucified head-downwards. There is no conclusive proof either way that St Peter’s relics are at the Vatican, but it is significant that Rome is the only city that ever claimed to be Peter’s place of death.

St Peter was a major influence on Mark when writing his gospel, and the First Epistle of Peter was very probably his. (Many scholars believe that the Second Epistle was written at a later date.)

From very early times Peter was invoked by Christians as a universal saint. He was the heavenly door-keeper, the patron of the Church and the papacy, a saint both powerful and accessible.

In England there were important dedications to Peter from early times: monasteries such as Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster. Cathedrals were named after him, too: York, Lichfield, Worcester and Selby. In all, it has been calculated that 1,129 pre-Reformation churches were dedicated to St Peter, and another 283 to SS Peter and Paul together.

Images of Peter are innumerable, but his portraiture remains curiously the same: a man with a square face, a bald or tonsured head, and a short square, curly beard. Not surprisingly, his chief emblem is a set of keys, sometimes along with a ship or fish.

St Paul, apostle to the Gentiles

Like Peter, Paul (d. c. 65) also started life with another name: Saul. This great apostle to the Gentiles was a Jew born in Tarsus and brought up by Gamaliel as a Pharisee. So keen was he to defend the god of his fathers that he became a persecutor of Christianity, and even took part in the stoning of Stephen. He hunted Christians down and imprisoned them, and it was while on his way to persecute more Christians in Damascus that he was suddenly given his vision of Christ.

It was the decisive moment of Paul's life – Paul suddenly realised that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and the Son of God, and that He was calling Paul to bring the Christian faith to the Gentiles. Paul was then healed of his temporary blindness, baptised, and retired to Arabia for about three years of prayer and solitude, before returning to Damascus.

From then on Paul seems to have lived a life full of hazard and hardship. He made many Jewish enemies, who stoned him, and wanted to kill him. Nevertheless, Paul made three great missionary journeys, first to Cyprus, then to Asia Minor and eastern Greece, and lastly to Ephesus, where he wrote I Corinthians, then to Macedonia and Achaia, where he wrote Romans, before returning to Jerusalem.

After stonings, beatings and imprisonment in Jerusalem he was sent to Rome for trial as a Roman citizen. On the way he was shipwrecked at Malta; when he finally reached Rome he was put under house-arrest for two years, during which time he wrote the four 'captivity' epistles. Later Paul may have revisited Ephesus and even have reached Spain. Tradition tells he was eventually martyred at Rome during the persecution of Nero, being beheaded (as a Roman citizen) at Tre Fontane and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands.

The belief that Peter and Paul died on the same day was caused by their sharing the same feast day.

Paul was not only a tireless missionary, but a great thinker. His epistles played a major part in the later development of Christian theology. Paul's key ideas include that Redemption is only through faith in Christ, who abrogated the old Law and began the era of the Spirit; that Christ is not just the Messiah, but the eternal, pre-existent Son of God, exalted after the Resurrection to God's right-hand; that the Church is the (mystical) body of Christ; that the believers live in Christ and will eventually be transformed by the final resurrection.

It is difficult to overemphasise the influence of Paul on Christian thought and history: he had a major effect on Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin and others. In art, Paul is depicted as small in stature, bald and bandy-legged, with a long face, long nose and eyebrows meeting over deep-set eyes. His usual emblems are a sword and a book. In England he was never as popular as St Peter, and ancient English churches dedicated to him alone number only 43.

The history of the relics of Peter and Paul is not very clear. Tradition says that Peter was buried at the Vatican and Paul on the Ostian Way under his basilica. Certainly, both apostles were venerated from very early times both in the Liturgy and in private prayers, as testified by Greek and Latin graffiti in the catacombs of the early 3rd century.



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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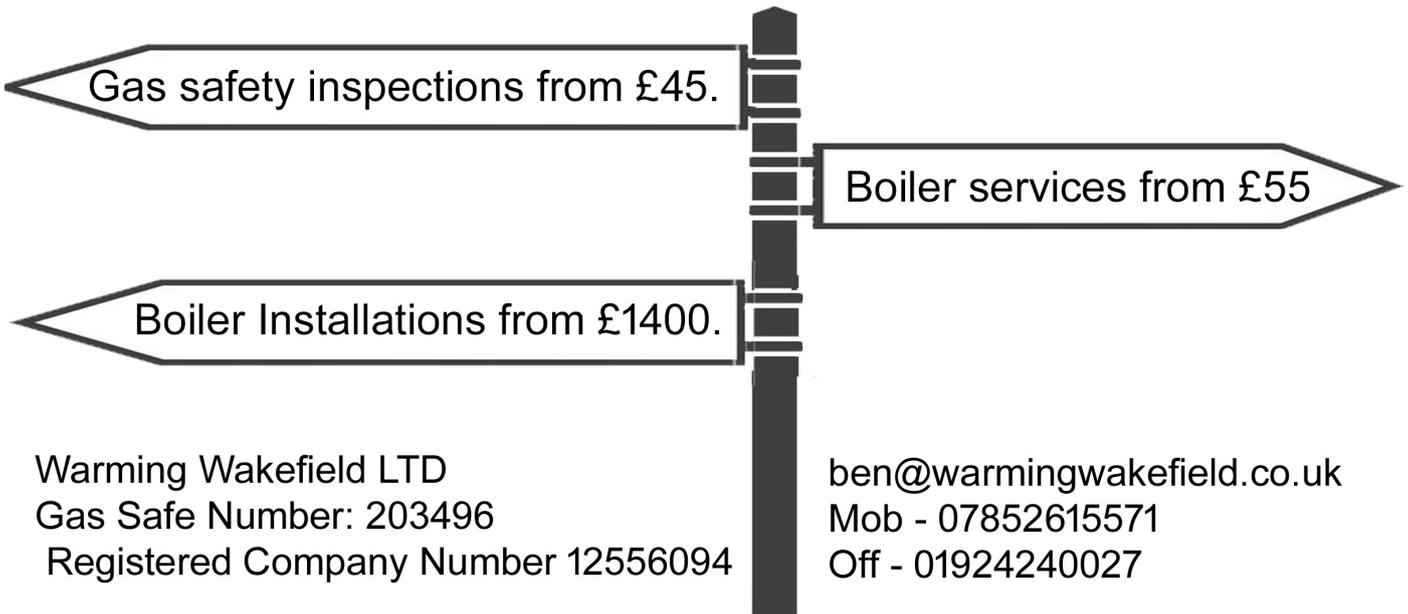




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Notes from the PCC Meeting held on 11 May 2021, via Zoom

The **Minutes of the last meeting**, held on 16th March 2021, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Changes to Registration of Marriages. A new administrative format has been brought in for marriages from 4 May 2021. Registers will no longer be completed during the service, instead this will be replaced by a Marriage Document signed on the day. This is submitted to the Registrars within 21 days with the couple being required to collect a marriage certificate from there. The Marriage Document now includes the mother's details and also provides space for stepparents' details to be listed. Copies of old marriage certificates can no longer be provided by the church; this will now be done through the Wakefield District Registrar's Office. Books of the old marriage registers and certificates will be returned to the district registration office.

Link with Mara Majengo Parish - Pam Mercer offered to take on the link with Mara and to liaise with the Missions Committee.

Review of the **Parish Magazine** - Bruce Dalglish, as Editor (for approximately 10 years), submitted a discussion paper prior to the meeting.

Current problems encountered with the production included: a lack of material from parishioners, which ultimately means that the magazine does not reflect the life of the church as it should do (an issue sharpened during the Covid-19 pandemic); the weekly notices are now more detailed and up to date with information that historically would have gone in the magazine; recently it has been filled with generic material from Parish Pump; other community publications exist (e.g., Pomfretian and Pontefract Voice); church additionally uses a variety of social media to publicise; photocopying in full colour to make it more appealing is too costly. Although the magazine is currently available online without charge, there are several people who pay for the magazine and have this delivered as they have no internet access. People, who don't come to church but have links with us, also value the magazine.

To improve and enhance the magazine, it could be professionally printed using colour on good quality paper at reasonable cost based on 200 copies, which may be more appealing to advertisers; continue bi-monthly or seasonally to help with issues of the time needed for production and the continued lack of material for an ongoing monthly magazine.

It was agreed to produce a bi-monthly magazine, which would be printed professionally. Bruce will create a 'mock-up' to send to all members of the PCC for their views and the congregation/user groups will again be encouraged to contribute to the magazine.

Road Map out of Lockdown. Stage 3 (from 17th May) of the Government's **Roadmap out of Lockdown** was discussed. The changes, as they affect the church, will be placed in the notice sheet. It was noted that refreshments are not yet able to restart as we would have to provide a 'table service'. It is hoped that this will be able to restart from 21 June if all remaining restrictions are lifted.

An update on **Finances** was received. The estimated deficit to the end of the year is likely to be less than expected. By the end of June, it is hoped the loss will be c. £8K. Approximately two-thirds of the congregation pay by SO or DD. A VAT refund will be submitted once the work on the South Aisle Roof is complete. Fees from funerals are in line with the budget, and this is an area that is extremely hard to predict. The biggest loss of funds is still from the sale of refreshments. £4,398 has been received from St Mary's as their contribution to the Parish Share and our thanks go to them. The St Giles' Centre will start to receive income from a few groups who are/will be using our facilities over the coming months. Utilities and staffing costs are currently the only expenditure. Some grants have been received for the Centre, which would not have been available to the Church alone and the shop at No. 6 has received grants of between £15-£16K.

Reports were submitted. Karen MacDonald, Parish Safeguarding Officer, advised that the new Safeguarding Dashboard is now up and running. It will be a valuable tool to ensure that we are compliant. The Safeguarding Policy was circulated prior to the meeting for approval and acceptance at the meeting. Peter Lavine submitted a report on behalf of the Fabric, Health & Safety Committee. Work on the bells should now be complete. Work on the South Aisle roof should be completed in another month. Unfortunately, some additional costs will be incurred with the work due to the condition of some of the slates. An update on the St Giles' Centre was included in the documents circulated as the Centre Management Committee is not able to meet via Zoom. Room lettings are starting to open up with several new businesses renting space for meetings. The Food Share and Pantry Club report reflected the good work being undertaken.

The St Giles' **Standing Committee Minutes** from the meeting held via Zoom on 20th April 2021 were submitted and accepted.

A list of people proposed as sides people was circulated prior to the meeting, with all names accepted. Names have been published in the weekly newsheet.

The Archdeacon's visitation, where churchwardens are sworn in, will take place at 7.30pm at St Giles on Monday, 5th July and will hope to include Evensong with members of the choir; the new curate, Sam Fletcher, will be ordained at Ripon Cathedral at 3.00pm on Saturday, 3rd July, and join us on Sunday, 4th July; Fr. Rod Walker finishes his training in June and Jill Clapham finishes her Reader training and will be commissioned in September. She will then go on a placement in January and will be licenced after this. Tony Williams, Pastoral Minister, is likely to be authorised at the end of 2021 or early 2022. First Aid Training for staff is due for renewal in June and refresher training will be arranged for those who require it. We are still encountering problems with linking the mevo camera to facebook.

The **date of the next meeting** was confirmed as Tuesday, 20th July at 7.00pm.

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(during term time)

At St Giles' Church

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Andrew J. Peaker

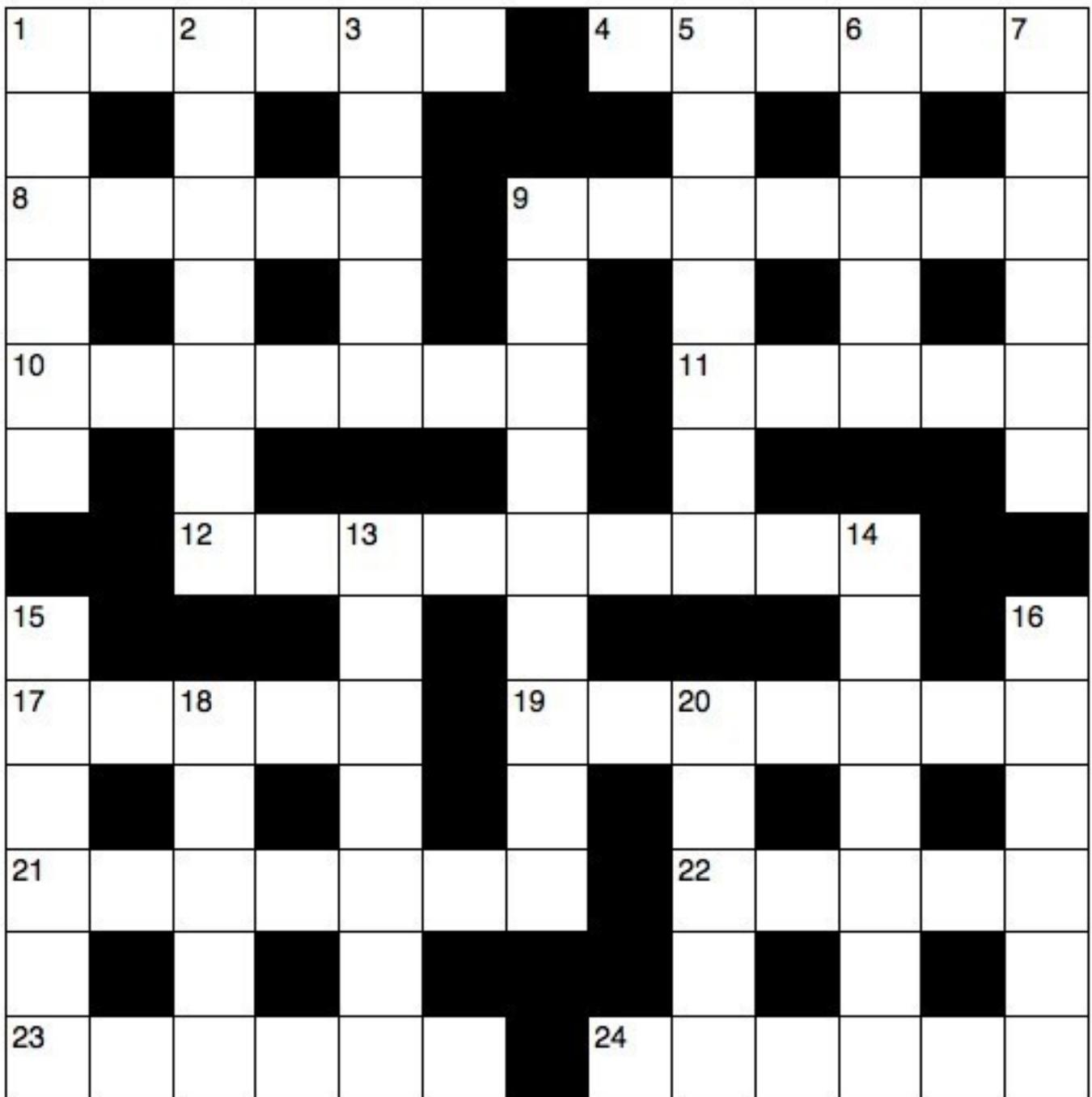
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Crossword Clues



Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew

24:7) (7)

- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Answers can be found on page 37



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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.

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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.

God in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter'.

This painting, done in tempera on wood, now hangs in the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena.

The picture of it is in the public domain, and can be found at:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/Duccio di Buoninsegna - Christ before Annas and Peter Denying Jesus - WGA06796.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_-_Christ_before_Annas_and_Peter_Denying_Jesus_-_WGA06796.jpg)



'I do not know the man', the fearful Peter said...

At the end of this month, on 28th June, we celebrate two of the great saints of the early church: Peter and Paul. We might relate more easily to Peter because his humanity and vulnerability spill out of the pages of the New Testament in everything he said and did. Peter was a fisherman, who was impetuous and headstrong, not once, but over and over again, saying one thing, and doing another. And yet our Lord chose Peter as the rock on which He would build His church, and at Caesarea Philippi Peter acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Then, when Jesus is arrested, the same Peter in the High Priest's courtyard declares with an oath, 'I do not know the man.'

That denial is in all four Gospels. We might have expected the evangelists would have had greater respect for this follower of Jesus. But they are not intimidated by his later fame and importance, and they record the episode in vivid detail.

That episode is recorded by Duccio in this month's painting, 'Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter.' Duccio worked in Siena in the late 13th and 14th centuries. In his paintings Jesus and the saints are no longer remote, austere figures: he portrays them in a natural, simple way. His greatest work was a series of 45 panels called the Maesta.

This month's picture is the first painting to depict Jesus' trial and Peter's denial together. The scene is a two-storey building: the figures above, apart from the High Priest, are all on their feet. Below, the figures are all seated, with the exception of the serving girl. Notice the wonderful array of hair styles and beards that are typical of Duccio's work.

In the painting Peter is recognisable by his halo, like Jesus above. He is in a direct line below Jesus, but just look at the contrast between the two. Jesus is standing with His hands bound in front of Him and His head to one side. Peter below is seated, looking straight at the girl, raising his hand to protest his ignorance and warming his feet by the fire. It needed courage for Peter to be there, but the Gospels tell us how quickly his vulnerability is exposed. As he answers the questions and reveals his Galilean accent, he starts to curse. He denies Jesus three times, and the scene ends in bitter tears. For all the bravado, a human, broken figure leaves the scene.

On his feast day we rejoice in that humanity of Peter, which brought him low, but encouraged him to try again. In Duccio's painting his denial takes place by the fire of the courtyard. It will be by another fire lit on the shore of the sea of Tiberias that Peter will be asked another three questions – not by a serving girl, but by Jesus. This time he will respond with affirmation, knowing that his Lord has come in resurrection glory to bring a new way forward for him and for everyone as He offers life in abundance.

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.

Wonders of the Living World

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like “your genetic blueprint” or “survival of

the fittest”, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there’s an overarching physical law we don’t yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

More at wondersofthelivingworld.org.

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.

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Return of concerts to St Giles'

We confirm we have complied with government guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19

You can only laugh...

Egyptian this and that

A group of tourists was watching the re-enactment of an ancient Egyptian religious ritual. One pointed to the statue that was being praised, and asked a nearby local for the name of the god. "Why do you ask?" the local man replied.

The tourist shrugged. "Oh, just idol curiosity!"

Ground

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.

Today, it's called golf.

Thankful

A minister said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says a prayer over you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

If you have a contribution for the Parish Magazine, whether it be a photograph, a notice, a report or a reminisce, please just write it down and hand it to Vivienne or Bruce, or email it to **both** 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 July's magazine is **Sunday June 20th**.

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

The Children's Society Summer Stall

Outside St Giles' Church, Pontefract

Saturday 19th June 2021

9.00 – 12 noon

Jams ★ Good quality bric-a-brac ★ Plants

Books ★ CD's and DVD's

Children's toys. ★ Jigsaws

The Children's Society, driven by the belief that every child deserves a good childhood, provides vital help and understanding for children who face danger, discrimination or disadvantage in their daily lives.

Help us give children back their childhood by providing any of the above items, particularly items for the tombola stall, which should be handed in prior to the day if possible.

Pontefract & District Appeals Committee

Chair Exercise

Great news, the Chair Exercise group is resuming in church on Tuesday afternoons from 3.00pm-4.00pm.



SUDOKU

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

Easy

Medium

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

Crossword Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

Funerals in May

No funerals were held

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

Year's mind. We give thanks for the lives of:- June 3 Bert Brentnall; Norman Edward Kemp **4** Madge Hankins; Kathleen Jones; John Anthony Storr **10** Russ Hunter **17** Jean Auckland Sharp; Dinah Webb **19** Annie Eugenia Whitaker **24** Rosaline Tetlow **25** Florence Gibbens **26** Harry Taylor; Ivy White **29** Kathleen Bratt **30** Paul Cook, Ephram Hopwood

*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 SIDESPEOPLE

	Warden				
1	Barbara Sessford	Janet Colvill	Margaret Hopwood	Maureen Milnes	
2	Peter Lavine	Linda Atkins	Barbara Lavine	Peter Spurr	Geoff Walsh
3	Bruce Dagleish	Bill Bradley	Barbara Chessman	Ian Wood	Margaret Coverdale
4	Pam Mercer	Sandra Barker	John Barber	Ian Knox	

Date	Service	Warden	Crucifer	Acolyte	Acolyte	Thurifer
06/062021 Trinity 1	10.15 am Eucharist	Barbara Sessford	<p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE NOTE</p> <p>These services will be taking place in St Giles', with congregation, and will be live streamed on https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract/</p> <p>Please view the church's website for up to date information http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/</p>			
13/06/2021 Trinity 2	10.15 am Eucharist	Peter Lavine				
20/06/2021 Trinity 3	10.15 am Eucharist	Bruce Dagleish				
27/06/2021 Trinity 4	10.15 am Eucharist	Pam Mercer				

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings
06/06/2021 Trinity 1	Here are the readings for the Sunday services in June				I Samuel 8.4-11, 16-20 Mark 3.20 to end
13/06/2021 Trinity 2				I Samuel 15.34-16.13 Mark 4.26-34	
20/06/2021 Trinity 3				I Samuel 17.32-49 Mark 4.35-41	
27/06/2021 Trinity 4				2 Samuel 1.1,17 to end Mark 5.21 to end	

Private Prayer and Lighting of Candles

St Giles' Church is currently open for Private prayer and lighting of candles on Wednesday and Saturday mornings between 10.00am and 11.30am.



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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

Vacancy

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

Prayer for Encouragement in June

Father,

At this time of year, we remember Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you - and others to trust you for the first time.

Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement.

Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to be en-couraged!

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

St Giles' Guide Book



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