

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles' with St Mary*



August 2021

Please Note

Obviously the actual occurrence of any event outlined in the magazine this month is completely out of our control. 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/>

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/>

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Following the relaxation of the Covid rules, the following is now in place at St Giles:

These decisions will be reviewed later in August, or sooner if needed, for the start of September.

- Those who use the track & trace app will be encouraged to continue to check in, but we will **no longer** require everyone to sign in and book for services.
- We strongly advise that people continue to wear face masks for worship.
- Hand sanitizer stations will continue to be available and their use encouraged.
- Doors will continue to be left open to improve ventilation.
- After Sunday 25th July, we will invite people to choose their own seats, but advise leaving two seats space between different groups who are seated on the same row. The gaps between rows will be reduced. Strict socially distanced seating will be retained in the café area and balcony should that prove necessary.
- We will slowly introduce limited congregational singing, whilst asking people to remain masked to sing.
- We will not, at this point, be making any changes to how we currently share the peace.
- The priest will continue to hand sanitise and wear a face covering when distributing communion.
- We will continue following a one-way system for communion and moving around church.
- We will retain only taking communion in one kind until we can return to the common cup safely.
- The collection will remain as a basket placed near the north door
- The live streaming of services will be continued in the short term.
- We will hope to return to refreshments after services and on Saturdays, no later than the beginning of September.
- Any church groups seeking to resume meeting in church ahead of September need to speak with the vicar and wardens for advice on risk assessing the activity.

PARISH OF PONTEFRACT

St Giles' with St Mary

Pontefract in Bloom.....

One of the many delights of living in the town happens at the hands of faithful volunteers who want to ensure that the town is beautified with colourful blooms throughout the summer period. In spring the bare soil is planted up and over the ensuing months the dark soil is lost beneath the canopy of colour provided by a rich variety of flowers planted in a variety of displays in the town and parkland. This year the displays have been especially lovely, maybe because of the 'dark' times that Covid has presented us all with.

Our local flower shops make their own contribution with their window displays and none of us could have failed to raise a smile at the vast array of sunflowers that greeted the shopper entering Marks and Spencers. Sunflowers have a lovely capacity to delight the eye of adult and child alike. Better still when they are growing still in a large field, standing several feet tall, the land a sea of yellow as far as the eye can see. Growing sunflowers confidently tilt their heads to always face the sun. Once fully grown they still maintain an eastward facing position.

The Christian church is no stranger to the significance of facing eastward for prayer and worship. It is rooted in ancient tradition—the Garden of Eden planted in the East (Genesis 2:8) and a belief that the Messiah would approach Jerusalem from the East. In the 2nd century, we know that Syrian Christians hung a Christian cross on the eastern wall of their house, symbolising 'their souls facing God, talking with him, and sharing their spirituality with the Lord.

Perhaps the sunflower models a deep truth for us, that growth into maturity comes through orientation towards the sun's light and warmth. As Christians we are called to prayerfully orientate our lives in the direction of the Son of God, whatever the weather. Rowan Williams has written a recent book entitled 'Looking East in Winter.' It's an evocative title. The winter of covid is not yet past, our lives may have held other 'wintry moments' in recent times, but let the sunflowers inspire us to keep 'looking east', to keep praying for the transformation of our lives and our world.

Canon June Lawson

Seeking All Volunteers!!

We are seeking volunteers to assist with refreshments on Saturdays in church, beginning at the start of September.

In times past, people have offered for a particular Saturday because it has been the choir Saturday, Missions or 5th Sunday St Mary's etc. What we would like to encourage is people saying what Saturdays in the month they might be available and then the teams can be put together. So, not necessarily just choir members doing the monthly choir refreshments Saturday or just St Mary's members on the fifth Sunday.

Open Church will also be resuming. If you are able to help with this, please speak to Barbara Sessford.



St Giles Food Share Summer Holiday Plans



During the school summer holidays, in addition to the regular weekly Pantry Club deliveries, Food Share will be working in partnership with Pontefract Collieries Football Club. Our contribution is to provide take-home family-supper ingredient packs for those children receiving free school meals who take part in the

Club's Happy and Healthy Holiday Activity Sessions which will run on most days for 4 weeks, commencing 9th August.

We will also be delivering Holiday Food Share parcels to families (nominated by our partner schools) which are not taking part in the Collieries activity days.

We would be very grateful for offers of driving and packing help to support these projects. Anyone interested, please contact us on **07808 808977**.

Paul and Ann Harris



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.



The Bric a brac and Tombola on Wednesday, 21st July raised **£280** for church funds.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, and special thanks go to Marjorie, Pat and Sandy for organising the event.

*Thank
You!*

Yorkshire Day—Sunday, 1st August

Why the 1st August?

The Yorkshire Society is on a mission to make Yorkshire Day a day when the whole region shows the world how proud we are to be Yorkshire.



- The date alludes to the regimental anniversary of the Battle of Minden on 1st August and the wearing of roses in the headdress on that day.
- In the case of the Light Infantry, successors to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, a white rose.
- The date is also the anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in the British Empire in 1834, for which a Yorkshire MP, William Wilberforce, campaigned.

A speciality market will be held in Pontefract market place on Sunday, 1st August from 10.00am—4.00pm and a Family Gala will take place in Friarwood Valley Gardens 10.00am-4.00pm.

6th August: *The Transfiguration of Jesus*

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention on Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From *our* mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

A letter from our link CMS missionaries

Therefore, the LORD waits to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

Can you believe it! We are more than halfway through 2021. Here in the UK we are moving slowly to a more relaxed way of dealing with Covid-19, but a lot of countries are still struggling with new waves of the virus that continues to devastate health services and the financial well being of many daily labourers. This is particularly the case in Nepal, though the current wave is slowly receding and some relaxing of lockdown has begun. Without the infrastructures of more developed countries many in Nepal continue to suffer. If that were not enough, the arrival of a heavy monsoon has caused flooding in some areas and landslides in other places. UMN, through its hospitals and community work are supporting, where they can, those suffering from coronavirus pandemic with aid going to local health services in the areas we work in.

Every five years UMN needs to renew its General Agreement with the Nepal government and, thankfully, after 12 months negotiation this has just been signed. We can celebrate, but there is a second phase of agreements in that the Project Agreements need to be confirmed with the government as well and it is these that have the visa posts attached. Please pray that these agreements are ratified soon as this will help us to know if we can get a visa post to continue working.

Working remotely has become the norm for many and we, too, have had to learn the necessary skills. We are very grateful that online facilities have developed so much in the last few years. Our biggest project has been the development of a Staff Support Group to help UMN staff through these difficult days of Covid. We are a group of four Nepalis and four expats and are now offering listening opportunities to individuals in need, stressed out by the current situation and also running self-care sessions to give basic training to all staff so they can develop their own stress reducing activities. We thank God for what appears to be a well-received service amongst the staff.

There were celebrations when Andrea heard she had passed her first semester exams for Tribhuvan University. Her work for an MA in Counselling

Psychology continues with online classes most nights, between 2 and 5am! Please pray for strength and wisdom for Andrea as the second semester exams begin at the end of July and continue through to mid-August.

It would be really good if we can get back to Nepal for the end of August and we could start working in the same time zone as our friends and colleagues in Nepal. As Covid starts to retreat face to face work will also become more of a reality. Please pray with us as we plan and prepare for this to happen. We continue to wait for the Lord to open the door. Isn't it great to know that He is waiting to be gracious to us.

God's peace,

Andrew & Andrea

Visit our web page:

<https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/andrea-and-andrew-young/>

St Giles' C of E Academy—Graduation Day!



After suddenly leaving school at the end of March 2020 as Year 5 children, they returned in September, as year 6 pupils, to a very different place, with different rules and different expectations. But they coped admirably.

Their final year of primary education has now come to an end and the children celebrated with a leavers' service where each child received a copy of the Good News Bible.

The Bibles were donated/bought by the St Giles congregation.

St Mary's Church,
Chequerfield



Sunday Mass at St Mary's Church will take
place on

Sunday, 8th August 2021 at 9.00am

Sunday, 22nd August 2021 at 9.00am

All welcome!



9th August: Mary Sumner – founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes. When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

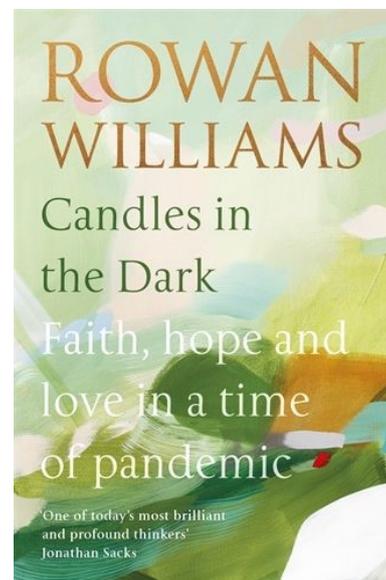
For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

Book reviews

Candles in the Dark – Faith, Hope and Love in a Time of Pandemic By Rowan Williams, SPCK £9.99

Rowan Williams offers comfort, hope and encouragement for the troubled times of coronavirus. He considers how “the foundations have been already laid for whatever new opportunities God has for us on the far side of this crisis.”

The book brings together the 26 weekly Christian meditations originally posted online from March to September 2020, during lockdown in the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, for the congregation of his local parish church.



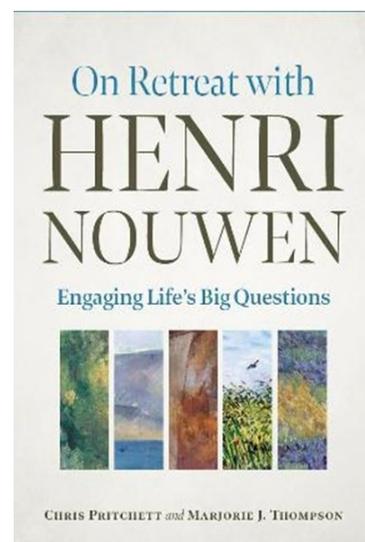
On Retreat with Henri Nouwen – Engaging Life’s Big Questions By Chris Pritchett and Marjorie Thompson, Canterbury Press, £12.99

To mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Henri Nouwen, one of the most beloved spiritual writers of contemporary times, this retreat companion offers a guide for spiritual transformation and growth based on Nouwen’s own writings and experience.

Nouwen’s own spiritual journey, marked by a restless quest and yearning for an experience of the divine, led him down paths familiar to many spiritual seekers today.

The questions he wrestled with are the same that speak to our own hearts: Who am I? Who is God? How do I know God loves me? Where is God when suffering surrounds me? How can I find interior peace in anxious, troubled times?

The book offers connections to contemporary life, points for reflection, prayer pauses for contemplation and prompts for engaging in one’s own spiritual quest.



11th August: Clare of Assisi—prayer and simplicity

In the year 1212 Clare, the 18-year-old daughter of a local Count, heard a young preacher called Francis. A few years earlier he had caused a sensation in the centre of the town where they both lived, Assisi in Italy, by stripping himself of his wealthy clothes and declaring that from now on he would live the life of a peasant. This, he said, was in obedience to the call of Christ, for whom the poor were 'blessed' and the rich were in peril of judgment.

Francis gathered a group of seven men prepared to embrace what he called 'joyful poverty' for Christ's sake, but that day he was to enlist a female disciple. 'You are a chosen soul from God', he told Clare, when she expressed her eagerness to embrace the same strict rule as his male followers.

In due course, after a period in a Benedictine convent, Clare and her sister Agnes moved into the church of St Damiano, which Francis and his friends had restored, and gathered there a group of like-minded women. Eventually Francis made Clare the abbess of a religious Order, at first called the 'Order of Poor Ladies', eventually, and universally, to be known as the 'Poor Clares'. Unable to operate an itinerant ministry like the men, Clare's sisters concentrated on a life of prayer and simplicity. In fact, their dedication to poverty was such that it affected the health of many of them.

Francis and Clare remained friends and colleagues over the next 14 years in this remarkable movement of renewal and mission. During the preceding century (as we can learn from Chaucer, among others) the religious Orders had in many cases substituted indulgence for discipline. Francis and Clare found this scandalous, and despite opposition from high places, set out to demonstrate that an effective Christian message required an appropriate Christian life-style. For them, poverty was not a burden but a joy – a release from the delusions of power and ambition. Their witness made an enormous impact on the poor people of Umbria and beyond, who saw an authenticity in their lives which spoke as eloquently as their words.

Clare helped to nurse Francis through his final illness, which lasted several years. She lived for 27 years after his death, like him suffering from the effects of long years of strict austerity. She died in 1253 and was canonised two years later. She is buried in the basilica of St Clare in Assisi, a few hundred yards from the basilica of St Francis. In life they proclaimed the same message of sacrificial love and service, and in their deaths they were not divided. Her special day is 11th August.

Christian Aid News

We were delighted to receive news that this year's Christian Aid Week has so far raised over £3 million pounds. Donations are continuing to be processed and we pass on thanks from Christian Aid to everyone who has contributed to this amazing effort. You can see the change the fund-raising has made to people's lives on the Christian Aid website www.christianaid.org.uk, including a short video featuring Florence from Kitui in Kenya standing by the earth dam provided by Christian Aid and its partners to supply drinking water for her community.

Sadly, during the summer, Christian Aid has needed to launch a Global Hunger Appeal. It is now estimated that 41 million people are facing extreme hunger. The situation is especially bad in South Sudan where hundreds of thousands of women, men and children are likely to face famine. The Emergency Appeal is seeking to raise funds to provide clean drinking water, seeds and tools and to buy essential food for families facing starvation. Donations can be made on the Christian Aid website, address given above.

Aid agencies, science and governments increasingly link food insecurity with climate change, much of which is believed to be man-made. As we look forward to Cop26, the Climate Change conference hosted by the UK in Glasgow this autumn, Christian Aid is partnering with the Young Christian Climate Network. Please look at the website www.yccn.uk for more information including details about a National Climate Relay walk, passing through Yorkshire in September en route to Glasgow. We share Christian Aid's invitation to walk a mile or two of the relay to show solidarity with the Climate Change movement and those so gravely affected by climate change.

With good wishes

Ann and Paul



A letter from the Bishops

Thursday 22 July 2021

To all churches and parishes in the Diocese of Leeds

As you know, the government lifted pandemic restrictions from 19 July. Whilst welcomed by many, this has also caused apprehension for many others.

Emergence was always going to prove challenging as responsibility would shift from edict to local choice.

It is evident from communication I and my colleagues are getting that there is anxiety around about our current uncertainties and where responsibility lies for elements of responding to the relaxation of these pandemic restrictions. This focuses particularly where there is a dispute between those who wish to “go back to normal now” and those who are more cautious amid the ongoing risks and uncertainties ahead.

Responsibility for decisions about local arrangements will fall on the incumbent and PCC. We urge you to move slowly, step by step, being careful to love your neighbour and seek to protect the vulnerable. In particular, we urge that you continue to receive Communion as we have done for the last eighteen months while we monitor change and public health risk. It is not clear that we are on an ever-rising trajectory to ‘freedom’; people on all sides of the political divides are worried about further restrictions or lockdowns in the autumn and winter, and that will be harder to manage than taking it slowly now.

In his letter to the church in Philippi Paul urges his readers to “look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others” (2:4). This means possibly sacrificing our own ‘rights’ on the altar of other people’s needs.

Please consider also the particular pressures upon clergy and lay leaders at this time as they seek to do what is right and (pastorally) best for all. Uncertainty is always difficult to navigate; we need to hold together as we do it.

Your bishops and their colleagues pray for you. Your archdeacons and area deans are ready to support you in your decision making. But, in all things be patient, kind and generous as we seek to be faithful to Christ and to one another in the months ahead.

In Christ who set our pattern.

The bishops of Leeds, Kirkstall, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Ripon and Bradford

Sudoku

Easy

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

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Medium

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

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Solutions page 25

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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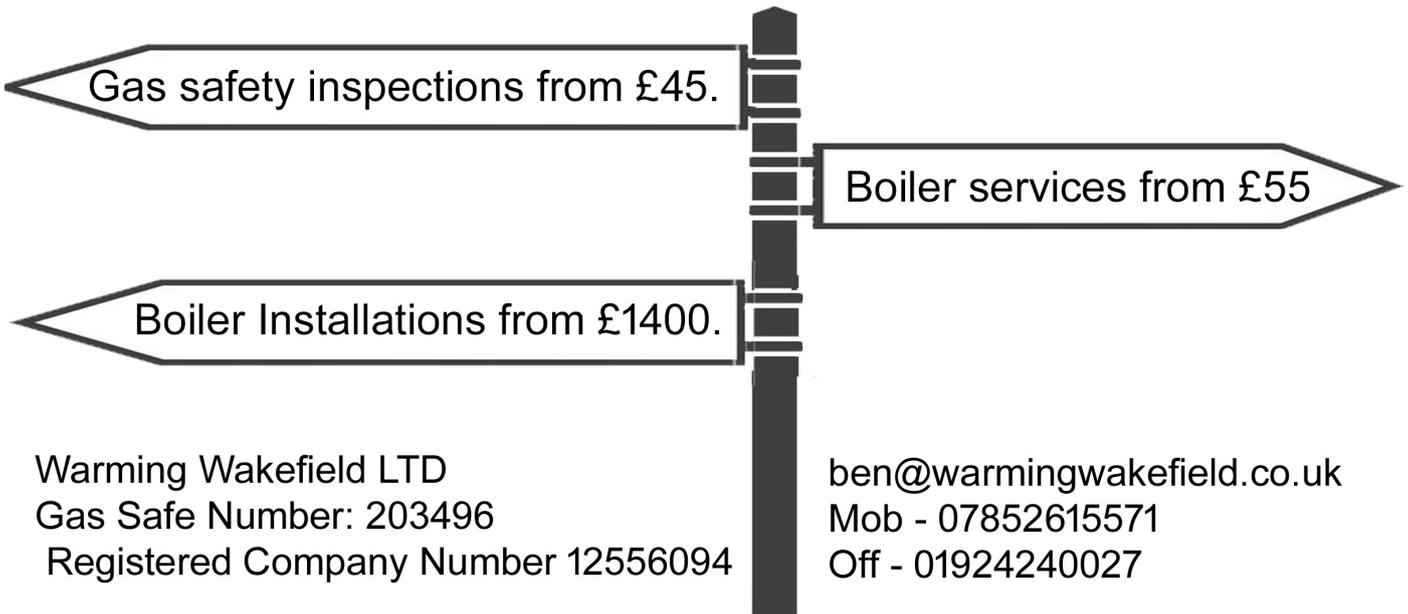




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Yorkshire Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

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ARMS



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TIME



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www.wakefieldrecoverycollege.nhs.uk
or call 01924 316946

Friday 15 October

2 - 4pm

**St. Giles' Centre, St. Giles'
Church, Market Place,
Pontefract, WF8 1AT**

If you require a copy of this information in any other format or language please contact your healthcare worker at the Trust.

15th August: *‘Shall we not love thee, Mother dear?’*

The Church responds with a resounding ‘Yes’ to that question, as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15th August. (Usually her feast day is on the 16th.) An ancient name for this day is the transition of Mary – her crossing over to eternal life – or the assumption of Mary. But her story begins in the Gospels, in Nazareth and Bethlehem.

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announces the good news to Mary. She becomes a mother and embarks on a journey that takes her to the temple in Jerusalem, a wedding feast at Cana, the Cross of Calvary, and the upper room of Pentecost. Through Christian history her story has spoken to people in every age and culture and land.

As we look at her life now, there are two qualities that stand out. The first is thanksgiving. Mary came from a people that realised the importance of thanking God, and her response to the good news is to raise her heart in the words of the Magnificat. ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour.’

The second quality is trust. Rowan Williams has written that despite the years of controversy about the place of our Lady, we still need to hold out our hands to her for guidance and succour. “For at the very least she is the first person to put her trust in God who is shown in Jesus.” Through all that happened to her – the amazing news of Gabriel, no room at the inn, the worry over wine at the wedding – Mary ponders and trusts. To the servants at Cana, she says, “Do whatever Jesus tells you. It will be all right. You will see.”

Thanksgiving and trust: easy enough to see in our Lady, but perhaps more difficult to own for ourselves. Yet Mary assures us that with God all things are possible. Holding on to that faith, we can journey with her Son through life and death to eternal life.

Parish Magazine

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.

Your contributions help to ensure that the magazine is a worthwhile publication and reflects the life of the St Giles' Church and the parish as a whole. So please, whatever your contribution, do send it in.

brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

The last date for items for September's magazine is **Sunday August 22nd**.

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

Y.M.C.A. Charity Shop

YMCA Charity Shop, Horsefair,
Pontefract.

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Andrew J. Peaker

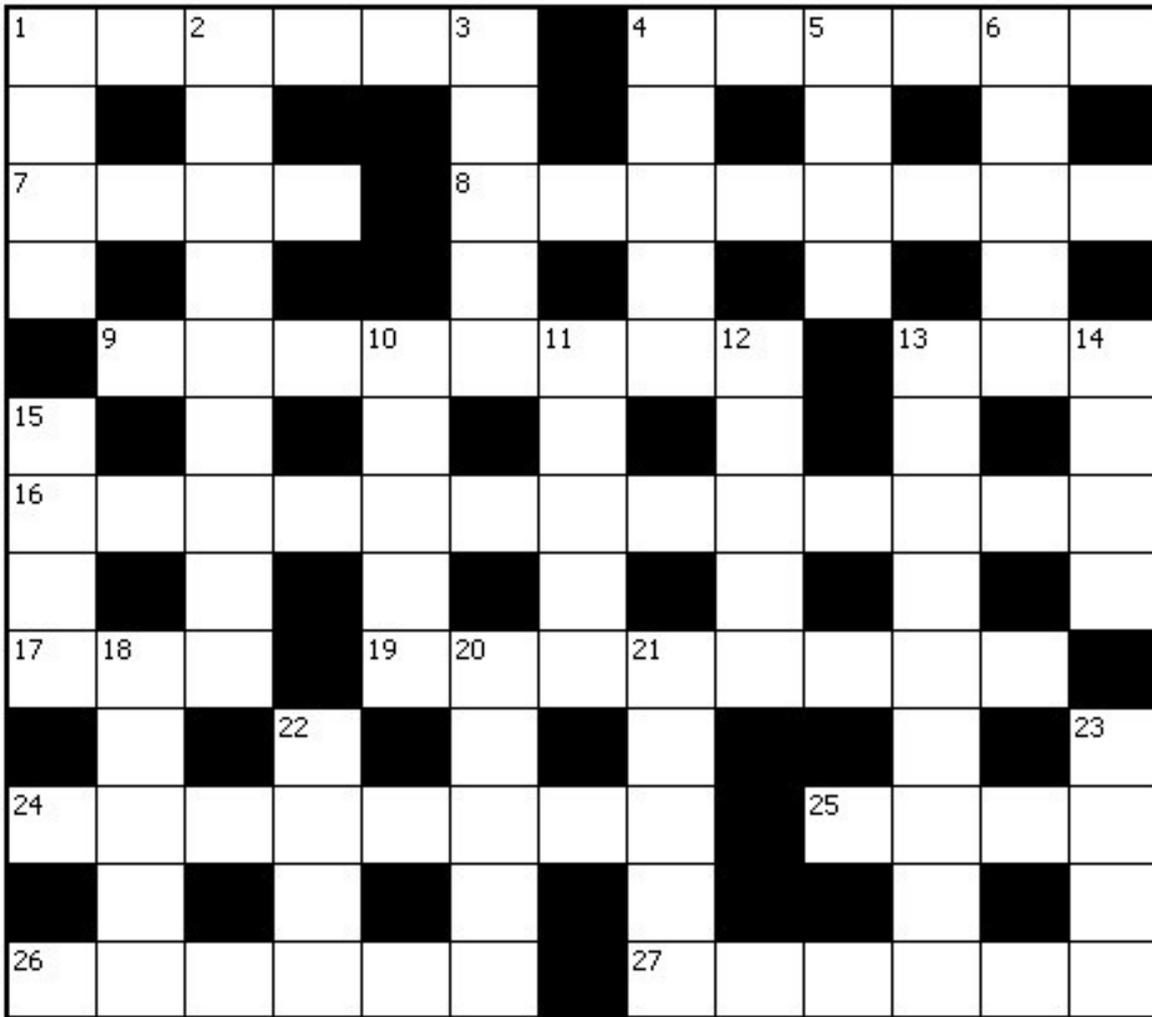
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Crossword Clues



Crossword questions and answers

Across

- 1 Of Moses (6)
- 4 'You have been weighed on the — and found wanting'
(Daniel 5:27) (6)
- 7 Where Jesus performed the first of his miraculous signs (John 2:11) (4)
- 8 Roman emperor who ordered all the Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:2) (8)
- 9 Member of a conservative Jewish party in the Sanhedrin which believed there was no resurrection
(Acts 23:8) (8)
- 13 South London Mission (1,1,1)
- 16 Sure of one's own ability (2 Corinthians 11:17) (4-9)
- 17 'At this the man's face fell. He went away — , because he had great wealth' (Mark 10:22) (3)
- 19 Airs used (anag.) (8)
- 24 'The Lord is my — , I shall not be in want' (Psalm 23:1) (8)

- 25 'He has sent me to — up the broken-hearted' (Isaiah 61:1) (4)
 26 At or towards the rear of a ship (6)
 27 Cross-carrying evangelist and world traveller, — Blessitt (6)

Down

- 1 Ridicule (Luke 18:32) (4)
 2 Encased in strapped-on light shoes (Song of Songs 7:1) (9)
 3 Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (1,1,1,1,1)
 4 'Father, give me my — of your estate' (Luke 15:12) (5)
 5 Assistant (4)
 6 On a par (John 5:18) (5)
 10 Credo (anag.) (5)
 11 Beaten with a rod (5)
 12 The fourth of Job's 'comforters', who deferred making his contribution because of his junior status (Job 32:6) (5)
 13 Chosen as a temple attendant, he was described by Ezra as 'a capable man' (Ezra 8:18) (9)
 14 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where — and rust destroy' (Matthew 6:19) (4)
 15 Employs (4)
 18 Associated with penitence for sins, along with sackcloth (Matthew 11:21) (5)
 20 Association of South-East Asian Nations (1,1,1,1,1)
 21 Sub-continent to which Baptist missionary pioneer William Carey devoted his life (5)
 22 Recess at east end of a church (4)
 23 One of the nine sons of Beriah (1 Chronicles 8:15) (4)

Answers can be found on page 30

Sudoku solutions

Easy

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

Medium

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



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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

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(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.

God in the Arts

Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'Jacob's Dream' by Ribera. It now hangs in the Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain.

You can see a copy of the painting at: http://www.spanisharts.com/history/barroco/imagenes/ribera/ribera_suenojacobo.html



'The Lord is in this place'

In the 3rd century a Chinese philosopher, Chang Tsu, had a very vivid dream. He dreamed he was a butterfly, happily flying here and there. When he awoke, he thought to himself, 'Did Chang Tsu dream that he was a butterfly, or did the butterfly dream that it was Chang Tsu?' Dreams are often like that: crucial experiences which cause

us to ponder and wonder about their meaning. The prophet Joel suggested that it was old men who dream dreams, while young people see visions. But dreams invade and colour our sleeping hours, whatever age we are.

In the Bible dreams are vital events. Think of Joseph in the Old Testament dreaming of his superiority among his brothers, the dreams of the cup bearer and baker at Pharaoh's court, Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, and Joseph's dreams in the Gospels that were so crucial for the safety of the Holy Family. This month in our paintings we focus on 'Jacob's Dream' by Ribera.

Jusepe de Ribera was a Spanish artist, whose most productive years were spent in Naples, where he died in 1652. This painting from 1639 is based on Genesis 28. After depriving his brother Esau of his birthright, Jacob is sent to Laban. At Bethel he rested and in his sleep received the vision of God's angels on the ladder to heaven with God's reassuring words of promise and blessing. When he awoke, Jacob set up an altar at Bethel, which he declared was the house of God and the gate of heaven.

To baroque artists, this scene in Genesis was seen as a prefiguration of the coming of Jesus, and in John's Gospel Jesus Himself told Nathanael that he

would see the angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. For Ribera the subject of Jacob's dream is treated with great tenderness as Jacob sleeps beneath the luminous expanse of sky, which occupies a major part of the canvas. Not for him the depiction of winged messengers; no, the light of heaven falls down upon the sleeping figure, casting shadows on the ground. The angels, ethereal and insubstantial, are contained in the glory of light. The tree at the other side looks like a fallen cross, and Jacob almost like a sleeping disciple in Gethsemane. But here, he is in deep repose as his face is lit up with the golden glow of the heavenly messengers.

For Jacob, the dream is the golden assurance of God's blessing. As his saga continues in Genesis, he marries Laban's daughters, wrestles with the divine stranger, is given the name Israel, and his 12 sons become the ancestors of the 12 tribes of God's people. So, the blessing of the dream is worked out in his life and the life of Israel.

Dreams can come to give visions of the way life should be. Like Jacob, or perhaps like Martin Luther King and his prophetic words in 1963. In this month of August many of us will go on holiday to enjoy rest and recreation. As we end the days with sleep, we pray that like the Psalmist we will lie down in perfect peace and safety and know the refreshment Jacob found at Bethel: a repose which will restore our souls and bodies to bring life and vision wherever we may be.

God in the Sciences

Physicist and Priest: John Polkinghorne (1930-2021)

At the age of 48 the Cambridge Professor John Polkinghorne decided he'd done his bit for physics and that it was time for a different sort of adventure. Resigning his academic position, he trained for ordination in the Church of England. In an interview 40 years later he said, "*It's one thing to go to church on Sundays but to give up a professorship and train for something else – that was a bit more than a gesture... I think a lot of people realised I was a religious person but they didn't expect me to take it quite that seriously... People were saying to me, 'Oh John what are you up to?' They mostly weren't thinking so much about my becoming a clergyman but just the fact that I was a Christian.*" (From *Test of Faith, Paternoster*, 2009)

John saw his work in science as a Christian vocation, and felt a responsibility

to use his talents in that area. Once ordained he found himself thoroughly engaged in the conversation about science and religion. One of his main messages was that *“I’m not a vegetarian butcher. There is a cousinly relationship between thinking about theology and thinking about science.”*

When asked for a Bible passage to appear at the end of his 2009 interview John chose Colossians 1:15–20: ‘He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.’ John’s explanation for his choice speaks volumes to anyone interested in the science-faith dialogue. *“I value this passage because it speaks of the cosmic significance of Christ, the One in whom all things hold together and who redeems all things (notice, not just all people) by the blood of his cross. Here meet my deepest religious beliefs and my strongest scientific concerns.”*

Associate Priest

Fr Rod Walker has now completed his curacy training and we are delighted to say that he will be re-licenced to the Benefice of Pontefract as an Associate Priest.



Crossword Answers:

ACROSS

1 Mosaic; 4 Scales; 7 Cana; 8 Claudius; 9 Sadducee; 13 SLM; 16 Self-confident; 17 Sad; 19 Radiuses; 24 Shepherd; 25 Bind; 26 Astern; 27 Arthur

DOWN

1 Mock; 2 Sandalled; 3 CICCUC; 4 Share; 5 Aide; 6 Equal; 10 Décor; 11 Caned; 12 Elihu; 13 Sherebiah; 14 Moth; 15 Uses; 18 Ashes; 20 ASEAN; 21 India; 22 Apse; 23 Eder

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

30th August: John Bunyan – the man who wrote Pilgrim's Progress

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the *Pilgrim's Progress* covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31st August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, '*My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder.*' ... *So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...*'



...Cathedral this summer as part of the Wakefield Council 'Festival of the Earth' campaign.

Between Friday 20 August - Monday 30 August 2021, visitors to Wakefield Cathedral will have the opportunity to engage with a stunning seven-metre replica of Earth, created by artist Luke Jerram, featuring detailed NASA imagery, with each centimetre of the internally-lit sculpture representing 18 kilometres of Earth's surface.

Whether you are wanting to come along simply to see this wonderful artwork floating majestically above the nave or you want to join us at one of our planned events or activities, be sure to pay us a visit this August and experience the awe of Gaia in our beautiful cathedral surroundings.

For the full programme and to book tickets, please [click here](#). **Early booking is highly recommended.**

Gaia has been funded as part of Festival of the Earth, led by Wakefield Council from July to October 2021 across the Wakefield district. Find out more at expwake.co/EarthFestWFD



wakefieldcouncil

Gaia has been 'Created in partnership with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Bluedot Festival and The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres. With supporting partners Culture Liverpool and Liverpool Cathedral.'

<https://www.wakefieldcathedral.org.uk/gaia>

31st August: Aidan – the man who brought Christianity to England

31st August is the feast of St Aidan, who brought Christianity to northern England. He is a strong contender for the title of the first English bishop. Not that honours meant a great deal to this austere but captivating character.

In 635 he came to Northumbria at the invitation of the local ruler, Oswald. Oswald had spent several years of his childhood on Iona, and when he succeeded to the throne of his northern kingdom he was shrewd enough to realise that the Christian faith would be an ideal unifying force to pacify rival tribes of warlords.



Oswald's invitation was not immediately successful. The first missionary from Iona returned in despair, claiming that the barbarity of the Northumbrians made them unconvertible. But as Aidan listened, he felt the unmistakable call of God to try again.

“Perhaps you were too harsh on them,” he found himself suggesting to the travel-stained missionary. Shortly afterwards, Aidan found himself at the head of a party of brothers heading for Northumbria. He was never to see his beloved Iona again.

The monks made the long journey to Northumbria on foot, singing psalms as they went. Their need to ward off the powers of evil with prayer was genuine, for these were dangerous times to travel through remote country unarmed. They arrived safely at Oswald's castle in Bamburgh, where he offered them lavish hospitality and assumed that they would found their community there.

However, the brothers realised that to live under the king's protection would make it difficult to avoid the world's temptations and establish a rapport with the local people. They saw the tidal island of Lindisfarne on the horizon and chose it as their base. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Aidan was much loved as a teacher and evangelist; though stern in his own self-discipline, he was prepared to travel to the most inaccessible villages, where he cared for the local people with compassion and gentleness. In time, his influence grew and noble people joined the stream of visitors to Lindisfarne.

After Oswald's death in 642, his brother Oswin succeeded him as king. Oswin was concerned about Aidan's habit of walking everywhere. The saint was ageing rapidly, his body weakened by years of harsh fasting and exposure to the elements. Oswin wondered what would happen to him one day on the road, and also he felt that such a lowly means of travel was not appropriate for a bishop. So he gave Aidan one of his finest horses, complete with a beautifully worked saddle and bridle.

Aidan did not feel able to risk offending the king by spurning his generosity, but he rode out of the palace with a heavy heart. He knew that people would relate to him differently now that he had the trappings of affluence, and that it would be dangerous to stop and rest with such valuable belongings beside him.

The king had intended to give him comfort, but his gesture had had the opposite effect. Aidan had learnt that possessions, and the need to protect them, make it more difficult to follow God with an undivided heart. The story goes that he gave the horse, complete with saddle, to the first beggar he met outside the palace gates.

A more pragmatic Christian might have reasoned that keeping on the right side of Oswin would lead to opportunities that were too valuable to risk. Indeed, the king was angry when he heard what Aidan had done. "That horse was fit for a king, not for some vagabond," he protested. "I could have found you an old nag if you wanted to give it away." Aidan's reply was simply, "What do you think, O King? Is the son of a mare worth more in your eyes than that the Son of God?"

There was an awkward silence; then the King removed his sword, knelt at Aidan's feet and asked his forgiveness. When he returned to the banqueting table, it was with a beaming smile. Sadly, he too was to perish in battle shortly afterwards; these were violent times. Yet Oswin, whose culture demanded that he should appear all-powerful in the eyes of his followers, had been publicly humbled by the integrity of a simple monk who had challenged his values.

Funerals in July

Phyllis May Evans
Kathleen Durrow
Elizabeth Ann Riley

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

Year's mind. We give thanks for the lives of:- August 4 Marina Schorah
5 John Malcolm Darling; Norman Tetlow **6** Lillian Ipson **8** Dennis Lavin
10 Hilda Haigh **11** Patrick Brennan **12** Iris Lavin **13** Ernest Tetlow
14 Kathleen Beaumont; Eric Dalglish; Harper Williams **19** Ella Vivian
Howarth; Eric Rushton **21** Michael Whitcombe (Priest) **22** Norman
Hemstock **25** Isabella Jackson; John Sanderson **26** Alice Ainslie **28** Peter
Hemstock **29** Alan Cutting **30** Annie Hayward **31** Gerry Davis

*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 -*

stgileschurchurchpontefract@gmail.com

A sincere apology is offered to the family of Miss Violet Crosland, whose surname was published incorrectly in the Years' Mind list in the July magazine.

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 Dalglish	Bill Bradley	Barbara Chessman	Ian Wood	Margaret Coverdale
4	Pam Mercer	Sandra Barker	John Barber	Ian Knox	

Date	Service	Warden	Crucifer	Acolyte	Acolyte	Thurifer
01/08/2021 Trinity 9	10.15 am Eucharist		<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>			
08/08/2021 Trinity 10	10.15 am Eucharist	Barbara Sessford				
15/08/2021 The Blessed Virgin Mary	10.15 am Eucharist	Peter Lavine				
22/08/2021 Trinity 12	10.15 am Eucharist	Bruce Dalgleish				
29/08/2021 Trinity 13	10.15 am Eucharist	Pam Mercer				

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings
01/08/2021 Trinity 9	<p>Here are the readings for the Sunday services in July</p>				Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35
08/08/2021 Trinity 10				Ephesians 4.25-5.2 John 6.35,41-51	
15/08/2021 The Blessed Virgin Mary				Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 1.46-55	
22/08/2021 Trinity 12				Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69	
29/08/2021 Trinity 13				James 1.17 to end Mark 7.1-8,14,15, 21-23	

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

Tel: 01977 706803

Fr Sam Fletcher

Tel: 07938 517350

Fr Michael Taylor (Honorary Priest)

Tel: 01977 702824

Fr Rod Walker

Tel: 07746 980727

Fr Mark Watkins

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

St Giles Good Share, No.6 The Circle

Paul and Ann Harris 07808 808977

PCC Vice Chairman

Barbara Sessford 699058

Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary

Janet Colvill/Marjorie Laidlaw 704864/795748

Churchwardens

Bruce Dalglish 07809 760993

Barbara Sessford 699058

Peter Lavine 07910 377989

Pam Mercer 780804

Children's Society Box Secretary

Angela Bradley 613643

Missions Committee Secretary

Edith Barber 277226

PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator

Vivienne Smales 790448

stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Pro-Wardens at St Mary's

Frank Ward

PCC Treasurer

David Leigh 706526

St Mary's Church Treasurer

Delia Perrett 796223

David Leigh 706526

Organist and Choir Director

James MacDonald 790448

St Mary's Church Meeting Chair

Vacant

Tower Captain

Adrian Garner 690154

St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

Parish Magazine Editor

Bruce Dalglish 690216

St Giles' Church School (aided)

Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

St Giles' Altar Flowers

Barbara Chessman 700559

St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Andy Weston 07791 656820

O Lord God,
who has been the hope and joy of many,
and who in all ages has given people
the power to seek you,
and in seeking to find you.
Grant us, we pray you, a clearer vision of your truth,
a greater faith in your power,
and a more confident assurance of your love.
When the way seems dark before us,
give us grace to walk trustingly.
When much is obscure to us, let us be all the more faithful
to the little we can see.
When the distant scene is clouded, let us rejoice that at
least the next step is plain.
When you are most hidden from our eyes,
let us hold fast to your commands.
When insight falters, let obedience stand firm.
What we lack in faith, let us repay in love.
For our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Fr Silvanus Berry

St Giles' Guide Book



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