

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles' with St Mary*



July 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

I'm Sam and I'm very glad to be the new curate at St. Giles' with St. Mary's. I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all, becoming a part of this community, and seeing how the Holy Spirit is at work in Pontefract. It's been a journey to get to this point, and I know that I will continue to learn and grow over the years I spend here.



I was born and bred in Yorkshire, in a small village near Keighley called Sutton-in-Craven. My parents raised me and my brother with a strong Christian faith, in a friendly, lively evangelical church. As early as fifteen, the church's youth worker mentioned that he saw in me a possible call to ministry, and this thought, once planted, began to grow in the back of my mind. In my late teens, however, I began to have all sorts of doubts and questions, which shook my faith. Yet this period, although troubling, would lead me into a fuller understanding of my faith as I began to ask deeper questions about who God was. I looked to theology to help respond to these questions, and found a treasure trove of insight and reflection from across Christian history that I had never really encountered before. After spending a year in East London working for a youth work charity—a turbulent year that nonetheless provided much valuable experience—I went on to study Theology at Oxford University.

Studying Theology at a place like Oxford was both intense and exciting. I am grateful for the opportunities I had there for my faith to be challenged, expanded and deepened, intellectually but also spiritually. I found a church I loved, and there discovered in particular a new appreciation of Christ's presence in the Eucharist. Throughout my time at university, my sense of calling to ministry continued to grow, as I heard God's voice in both ordinary and extraordinary ways. It was also at university that I met my partner, Julia, who I have been with for the past four years; Julia aspires to be an academic and is about to embark on a PhD in modernist literature.

After being accepted as a candidate for ordination, and following my graduation from university, I spent two years at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, where I trained for ministry. My theological college

was attached to a small monastic community, and followed a rhythm of life and worship influenced by the monastic life. It was sometimes a challenging experience living so closely alongside others, but I learnt a huge amount about myself and about life in community, and formed deep and sustaining friendships.



As well as being passionate about theology, I enjoy reading and writing poetry, which helps me to consider questions about life and faith in more open and exploratory ways; my favourite poets include R. S. Thomas and Gerard Manley Hopkins.

I am excited to be here in Pontefract, and to be working alongside Canon June. I would be very grateful for your prayers that I might continue to know God's abiding presence as I take on the new challenges and experiences that being a curate will bring. Be sure that you will all continually be in my prayers.

Grace be with you,

Sam Fletcher
Curate

Click on the following link to view Sam's ordination as deacon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLBZsoGxq8s>

<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/news/new-bishop-our-link-diocese-rorya>

New Bishop for our link diocese of Rorya

One of our link dioceses has a new bishop.

The Revd Canon Musa Yamo was consecrated as the second Bishop of the diocese of Rorya in Tanzania on Sunday May 23 by the Archbishop of Tanzania

and twenty other bishops.

The diocese of Rorya was created out from the diocese of Mara in 2011.

Bishop Musa, who at age 43 is the youngest Bishop in Tanzania, said: “The Cathedral was packed for my consecration service which began at 9am and lasted for over four hours.

“The preacher was Bishop Dr Dickson Chilongani, my former principal at Msalato Theological College.

“He preached on John 21:15-17 and emphasized 4 things for my ministry as a bishop: first, to love Jesus more than those I lead; second, that I should not love wealth and possession more than loving Jesus; third, that I must do not lead the Lord’s sheep with anger; and fourth, that I must encourage everyone to love one another.”

The new Bishop faces some big challenges in one of the poorest dioceses in Tanzania, including literacy, finance, infrastructure and transport for clergy.

Bishop Tony, who chairs our Tanzanian Link Committee said: “Please keep Bishop Musa in your prayers as he faces significant challenges in a very poor diocese.

“If any parish in our diocese would like to support the new Bishop or have a link with a parish in Tanzania please do get in touch with me.

“Our link with Tanzania goes back to 1989 and over £3 million has been sent to support the churches there.

“However, there are still many challenges for a new diocese like Rorya.

“Anything we can do will mean that we stand ‘Bega kwa bega’ which translates to ‘Shoulder to Shoulder’.”



3rd July: St Thomas the Apostle – confused and doubting

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe – unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears – but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26ff).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event – the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

Pontefract Liquorice Festival—3 July 2021



 Events in Wakefield

 @mywakefield

 @mywakefield

 bit.ly/pontefract-allsorts

#PontefractAllsorts

Whilst the annual Liquorice Festival may have been cancelled this year, you can still join in with celebrating the town's unique historic links with liquorice with an online celebration on Saturday 3 July.

There's plenty of online activities, games and puzzles to entertain all. Learn all about how and why liquorice is grown in Pontefract with online videos.

For further updates over the week, follow on:

Facebook: [EventsInWakefield](https://www.facebook.com/EventsInWakefield)

Twitter: [@EventsinWakey](https://twitter.com/EventsinWakey)

Instagram: [EventsinWakefield](https://www.instagram.com/EventsinWakefield)

#PontefractAllsorts

Have you seen the Town Hall lately?



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SUMMER STALL

The Summer Bric-a-brac/cakes/tombola stall held on Saturday, 19th June raised **£298.70** for The Children's Society.

A huge thank you to all who donated items and helped with the stall.



To all volunteers

The crisis has reminded us all that when it really matters, we're here for one another, and that's something to be grateful for.

Let's all join in on
Sunday 4th July,
and say a great big thank you, together.

Go to thankyouday.org.uk

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St Mary's Church,
Chequerfield



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

Sunday, 11th July 2021 at 9am

Sunday, 25th July 2021 at 9am

All welcome!



From Card Shop to St Giles' Food Share No 6 Frontage transformed

It's some 15 months since we obtained occupancy of No 6 The Circle for our Holiday Food Share scheme. Until recently, we've had to direct visitors and deliveries to look out for 'Circle Cards', the header notice on the shop frontage and the best landmark we could offer as the shops aren't numbered. When we took No 6 over, the premises had been unoccupied for some time, but we had memories of the generosity of the Card Shop manager in supporting St Mary's Church fund-raising efforts with balloons and cards.

Initially, some passers-by assumed we were opening a card shop again, but this was soon dispelled as it became clear that we were stocking up with food supplies. We explained to anyone curious about our venture that we are a food aid organisation and this was reinforced with weekly deliveries by the FareShare van with its straplines 'Great food to great causes' and 'Fighting hunger, tackling food waste'. But we had to rely on shop window posters to show that we are part of the St Giles' outreach in the community.

Now, thanks to the contacts and support of a member of the St Mary's congregation and the generosity of Smart Print Works of Brighouse, the Project now has a new shop-front sign and window 'frosting' with our family logo prominent. The photograph was taken just after Owen and Alex had finished the installation. We are immensely grateful for this gift. It is so good to have our parish Church visibly present on Chequerfield.



Cont'd...

Breaking news from No 6 is that an application to work jointly with Pontefract Collieries Football Club on a DFE-funded Happy and Healthy Holidays Project for Pontefract seems to have been successful. Please watch the Notices sheet as help is likely to be needed for the FoodShare part of the Project. Is this the first time that a Parish Church has partnered with a Football Club?

Paul and Ann Harris

Christian Aid Week 2021

Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week this May in this the most challenging of years. Although our usual local fund-raising activities have had to be curtailed this year, we are well on the way to raising £300 for Christian Aid.

One of the suggestions which Christian Aid made for fund-raising activities during Christian Aid Week was for supporters to take on a sponsored 300,000 steps challenge during May. We are delighted to announce that one of our local supporters completed the challenge (only just) with a total of 300,324 steps. After pounding Pontefract's pavements for a month, our supporter gave this statement: "I've lost half a stone and my trainers are shot but I now have more of an idea of the hardship women like Rose* endure as a result of Climate Change to get water and other necessities."

Thank you

Ann and Paul Harris

*Rose, in Kenya, a grandmother over 60, is featured in Christian Aid's "headline" stories for this year's Christian Aid Week. In times of drought, Rose walks every morning on an empty stomach to collect water for her family.

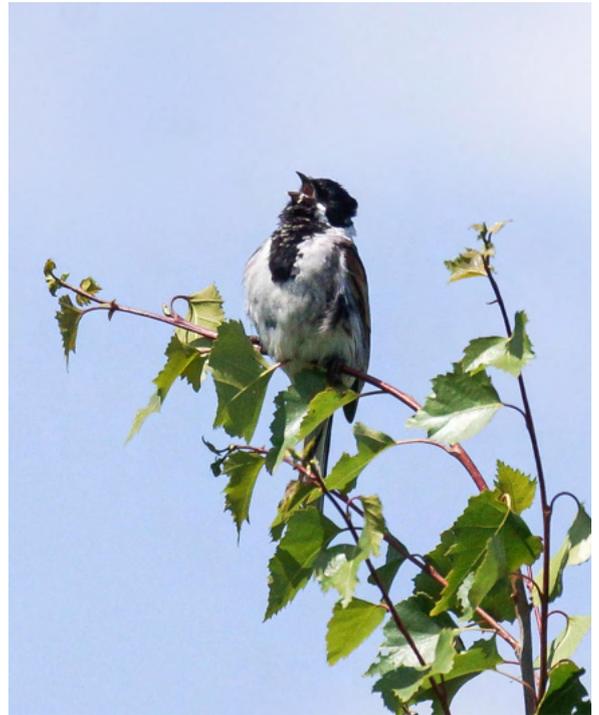


Here is a beautiful summer poem by Thomas Hardy that we at St Mary's Church would like to share.

Summer Schemes

When friendly summer calls again,
Calls again
Her little fifers to these hills,
We'll go—we two—to that arched fane
Of leafage where they prime their bills
Before they start to flood the plain
With quavers, minims, shakes, and trills.
"—We'll go," I sing; but who shall say
What may not chance before that day!

And we shall see the waters spring,
Waters spring
From chinks the scrubby copses crown;
And we shall trace their oncreeping
To where the cascade tumbles down
And sends the bobbing growths aswing,
And ferns not quite but almost drown.
"—We shall," I say; but who may sing
Of what another moon will bring!



*A reed bunting at RSPB St Aidan's
Courtesy of Bruce Dalglish*



*The River Wharfe above Burnsall
Courtesy of Bruce Dalglish*

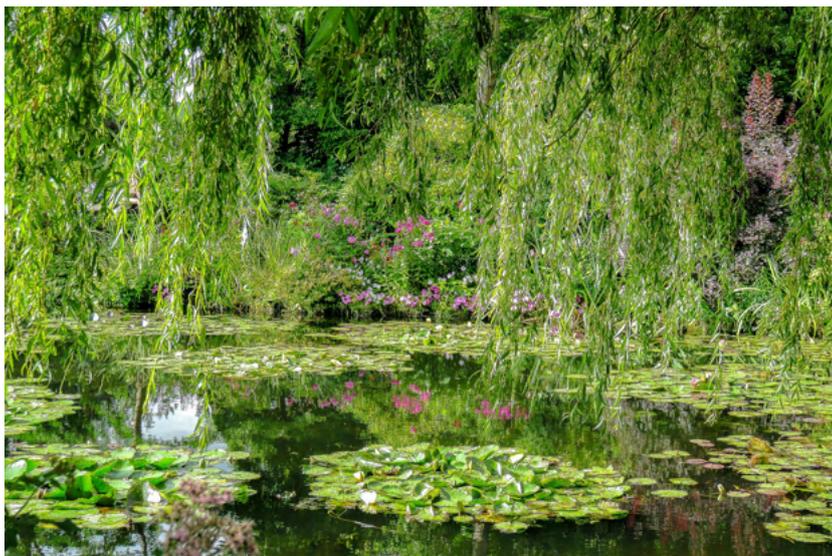
From all St Marys church, Chequerfield.

TEXT: The King in His beauty.

READING: Isaiah 33: 15-24.

MEDITATION

When life proves too much for us, when all petty irritations and anxieties crowd in amongst us and obscure our vision of heavenly things, if we can get away by ourselves to the great outdoors, God will there draw close to us and hush our fretful spirits in His enfolding peace and we shall see Him in the beauty and quiet of woodland, of sky and sea and green fields.



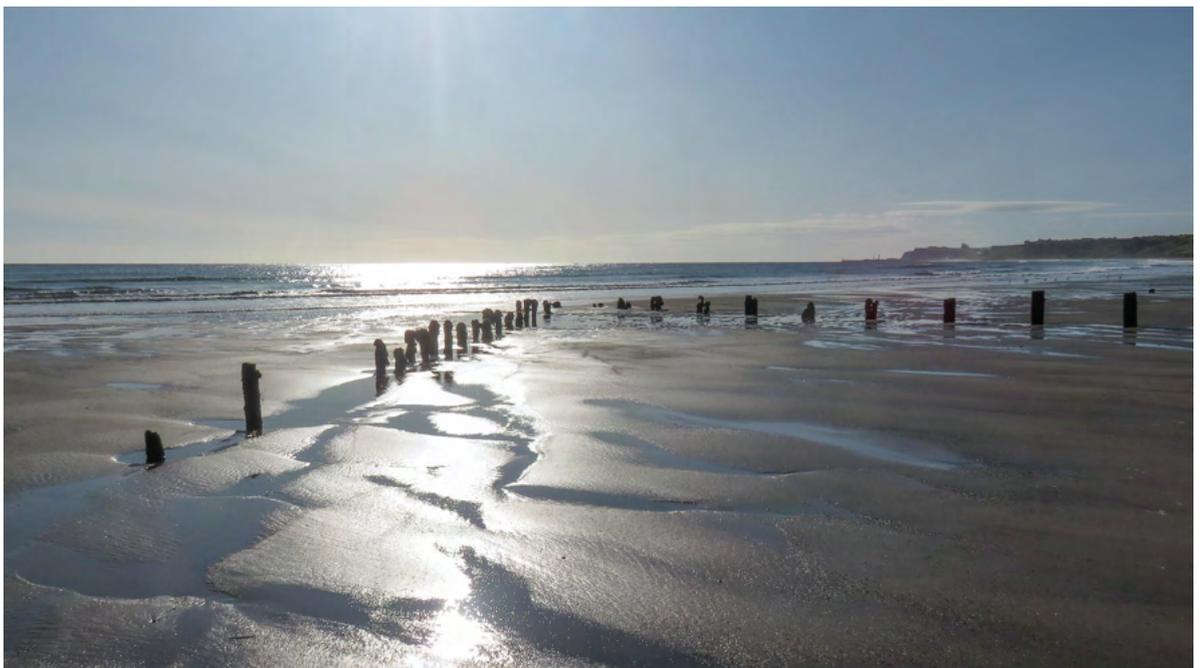
VERSE

Out in the garden fresh and
green
Thy Presence beautiful is seen.
Revealed in trees that long
have stood
Communing with Thee in
solitude.
Shown in the flowers so fresh
and fair,
Surely Thy purity is there.

Blessings are whispered in the breeze,
Prayers in the toil of the birds and bees,
Praise in the trilling song of bird,
Thy voice in the hush of the garden heard.

PRAYER

As the trees and birds and flowers show forth Thy beauty and tenderness, O Lord of all Life, so may my words and deeds this day be a manifestation of Thy Love to all the world. Give me the purity of running water, the brightness of sunshine, the calm of evening twilight, the uprightness of tall trees, and grant that in a world of such harmony and loveliness I may never be a discordant note, but may ever reflect Thy-self. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.



All photographs courtesy of Bruce Dalglish.

Page 13: A Sika hind at Fountains Abbey and Monet's garden at Giverny

This page: A painted lady on self heal at the hole of Horcum, NY Moors and Summer sun at Sandsend, Whitby

15th July: St Swithun (or Swithin) – saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

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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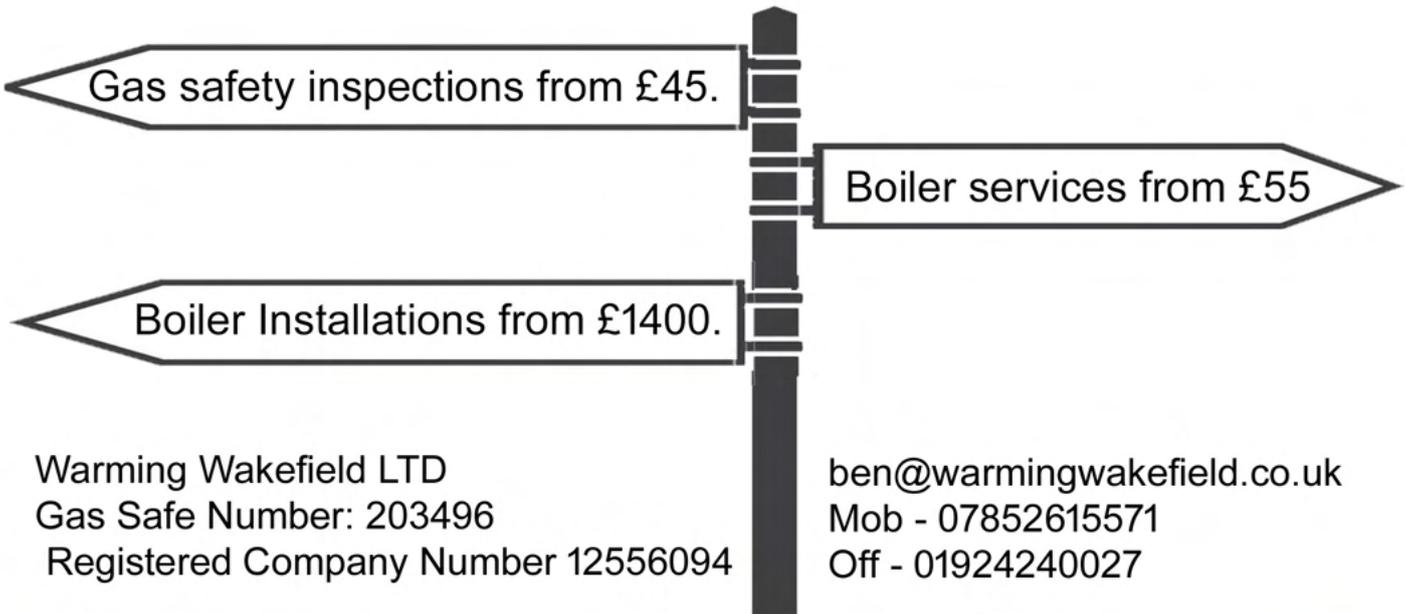




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Stroke awareness workshop



South West
Yorkshire Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

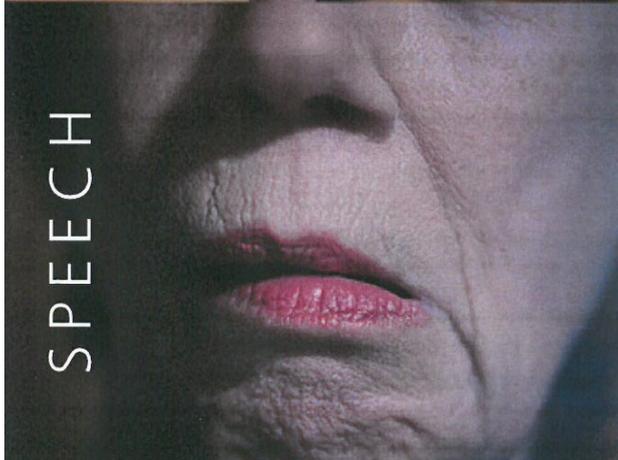
FACE



ARMS



SPEECH



TIME



With **all of us** in mind.

- Would you know what signs to look for if you thought someone was having a stroke?
- Have you suffered a stroke yourself, or do you care for someone who has?
- Would you like to learn more about living a healthy lifestyle and how you can help prevent a stroke?
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Join our informative and interactive workshop to learn more about what a stroke is, along with other information about diet, blood pressure and local support groups.

The workshop will be hosted by a professionally registered nursing sister with experience of caring for patients following a stroke, along with a person who has lived experience of stroke.

To book a place visit
www.wakefieldrecoverycollege.nhs.uk
or call 01924 316946

Tuesday 13 July 2021

10am – 12pm

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.

2021 Budget

The **2021** budget forecasts a deficit of **£1.2m**, as the impacts of Covid-19 continue to be felt by all. Parish Share is budgeted to provide **£13m** of our income, which is lower than historic levels and well below the **£15.7m** spent on Ministry in Parishes and Clergy Property. If the average payment rate increases from **87% in 2019 to 90% in 2021** our deficit will be reduced by **£1m**, this equates to around **£2,000** per parish.

Your Parish Share contributions will enable us to:



Ministry in Parishes

- Pay the stipendiary costs of **280** clergy and **44** curates across the diocese



Clergy Property Costs

- Maintain **458** clergy houses and pay council tax and water rates

With the remainder of our budget we will:



Ministry & Mission

- Sponsor **42** candidates for ordination and train **66** curates (both stipendiary and self-supporting) and **120** people for lay ministry
- Provide youth & children's work support to **200+** adults with new online courses, awareness training and taster sessions
- Provide teams leading on **church growth, community engagement** and **environmental issues**



Parishes and Schools Support

- Support **239** church schools and **35** non church schools delivering education to **72,000** children, and provide online training and drop-in sessions to school leaders and staff
- Provide shared support services such as safeguarding, stewardship, DAC, communications and human resources.



National Church & Grants

- Contribute to training for ministry and other national church costs



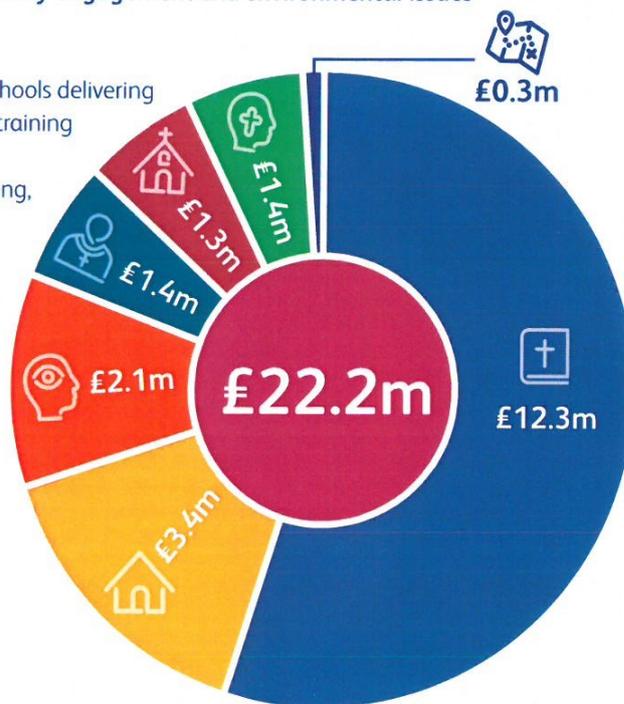
Retreat & Outdoor Centres

- Support the work of **Parcevall Hall**, whose costs are fully recovered as income



Central Costs

- Pay for central governance, finance, registrar and ICT costs.



Sharing a vision for

- **Confident Christians**
- **Growing Churches**
- **Transforming Communities**

Loving.
Living.
Learning.

Food for thought in these words published in my Scottish mother church's magazine (Falkirk Trinity Church of Scotland):

CHURCH ON THE SOFA IS NICE BUT...

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving the home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church. Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of a community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen. While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be. Yes, church on the sofa is nice. But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary.

Sonia Atkin

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Refreshments available - small donation

COME AND JOIN US



Andrew J. Peaker

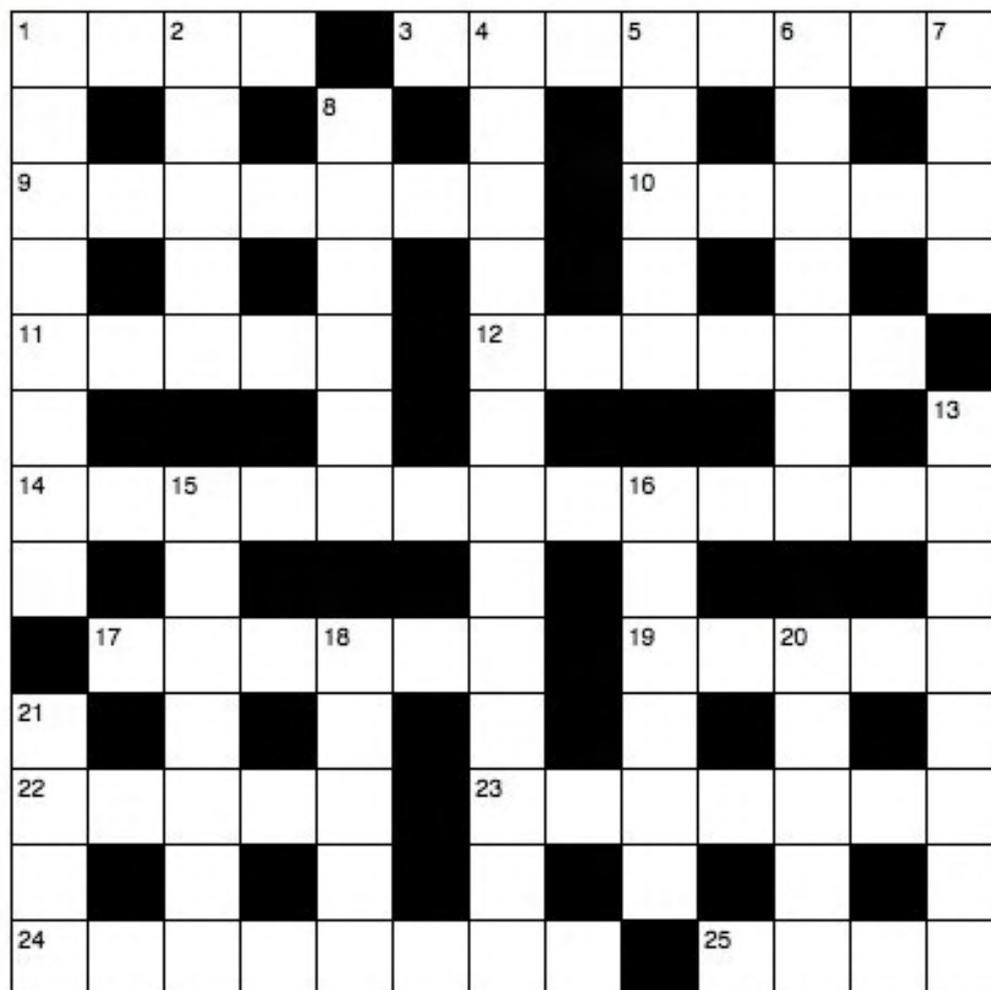
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Crossword Clues



Crossword questions and answers

ACROSS

1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)

3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)

9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)

10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)

11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)

12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)

14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)

- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
2 Church of England incumbent (5)
4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
16 Real do (anag.) (6)
18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

Answers can be found on page 35



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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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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 Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. It now hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. You can see a copy of the painting at: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edward_Hicks_-_Peaceable_Kingdom.jpg

Promise and Fulfilment



When St Peter preached his first sermon on the day of Pentecost, he showed how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus had to be understood in the light of the Old Testament. The promise of the Old was granted fulfilment in the New. This is how we understand the unity of the two Testaments: the messianic hope in one finds full expression in the other. We read of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah and look to the life-giving

sacrifice of Jesus. Earlier in that prophet we read of a wondrous Child who is granted the spirit of the Lord to bring Paradise once more to the world:

'The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.' (Isaiah 11:6,9)

That vision of peace and harmony inspired this month's painting, 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1780 and worked as a carriage and sign maker. After a rebellious adolescence, he became a Quaker, living as a preacher and minister before taking up his brushes. His fellow Quakers were uneasy with this pursuit of such a worldly profession, and so Edward Hicks tried his hand at farming. His efforts proved unsuccessful, and he returned to painting, creating a whole series of canvases on this single theme. He painted almost a hundred versions of the Peaceable Kingdom of which over 60 still exist. This one is from 1834.

The foreground is occupied by not just one child, but several. They are innocent and free, playing with the animals around – lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, cow and lamb. There is no sign of ‘nature red in tooth and claw’ here for all is peace and tranquillity. The bear and cow nudge each other in the bottom corner with no fear and no assertion of strength. That vision of peace is being realised in the distant scene, where we see William Penn and his fellow Quakers working on a treaty of co-existence with the Indians. The animals in the foreground symbolise the human traits we see at work in the background: leadership and strength, sensitivity and gentleness.

As he worked on later versions of this painting, Edward Hicks knew that such peace was not an easy and simple achievement. Arguments and misunderstandings divided his own flock, and as a result the animals he painted look tired and anxious with sad eyes and white whiskers.

But here in 1834 there is a freshness and a promise of paradise restored. The cow and the calf, the bear and the bear cub, and the other animals are at one with the children playing. That harmony can be realised in human affairs also, the artist is saying. ‘Follow the Inner Light’ and Isaiah’s prophecy can be fulfilled in our world. It needs both the innocence and strength we see here; it needs action and waiting, it needs wisdom and gentleness as we take counsel one with another. Follow those qualities to be channels of God’s peace to make this world the Peaceable Kingdom.

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.

Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views

It’s important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can’t exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What’s the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of

meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that “science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, ‘Why am I here?’”

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. “I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I’m not saying that I have any proof, but I’m saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him.”

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that “studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore.”

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. “Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you’re studying the works of God.” Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Quotes from videos on www.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.

- 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

22nd July: St Mary Magdalene – patron of repentant sinners

It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalene over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life.

Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from near Tiberius in Galilee. She became His follower to the bitter end. She followed Him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Her love for Jesus did not end there, for she went to the tomb to anoint His body on the Sunday morning.

Such faithful, humble devotion was richly repaid: it gave her a unique privilege among all mankind: she was the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter Sunday morning. She thought He was the gardener at first.

Mary Magdalene has sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon (Luke 7:37). Over the centuries many artists have painted this scene. Mary Magdalene's feast has been kept in the West since the 8th century. England has 187 ancient churches dedicated to her, as well as a College in both Oxford and Cambridge.

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.

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 August's magazine is **Sunday July 25th**.

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



...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>

25th July: St James the Apostle – apostle to Spain

James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee and fishermen from Galilee – the ‘sons of thunder’, as the gospel writers describe their impetuous characters and fiery tempers.

James stands out on three accounts: he was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus took him, along with Peter and John, to ‘watch’ with him in the garden of Gethsemane. Finally, he went on to be the first apostle to die for the Christian faith, when in AD 44 King Herod Agrippa put him to the sword in Jerusalem at Passover time.

In the centuries following his death, James became associated with the evangelising of Spain, and as a powerful defender of Christianity against the Moors. The heyday of the cult of Santiago de Compostela was from the 12th to the 15th century, and the pilgrimage to Compostela became one of the most important of medieval Christendom. This in time transformed the iconography of James, and his emblems became the pilgrim’s hat and the scallop-shell of Compostela. Over 400 English churches have been dedicated to James.

31st July: St Joseph of Arimathea – the man who buried Jesus

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand – and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries.

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council – the Sanhedrin. Mark’s gospel describes him as having been ‘waiting for the kingdom of God’ for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.

When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body – and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it – and it was still new and empty. So Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone – Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history – and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff.

The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn't stay very long!

SUDOKU

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7				1		9	2	
6								

Medium

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Crossword Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Dove. 3, Offender. 9, Alcohol. 10, Loses. 11, Horam. 12, Ophrah. 14, Archbishopric. 17, Samuel. 19, Dwarf. 22, Lacks. 23, Imagine. 24, Military. 25, Revd.

DOWN: 1, Drachmas. 2, Vicar. 4, Fellow-soldier. 5, Eglah. 6, Despair. 7, Rust. 8, The mob. 13, Scofield. 15, Chancel. 16, Ordeal. 18, Upset. 20, Alike. 21, Elim.

Funerals in June

Ron and Joan Senior
Roy Garner
John Edward Ryder-Davies

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

Year's mind. We give thanks for the lives of:- July 3 Janet Cutting; 9 Frederick Legay Murray; 10 Gladys Walker; 14 Margaret Illidge, Anne Taylor; 19 Stan Mann; 20 Violet Crossland; 25 Bob Grice; 28 Clifford Bratt

*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
04/07/2021 Trinity 5	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>			
1/07/2021 Trinity 6	10.15 am Eucharist	Peter Lavine				
18/07/2021 Trinity 7	10.15 am Eucharist	Bruce Dagleish				
25/07/2021 James the Apostle	10.15 am Eucharist	Pam Mercer				

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Eucharistic Minister	Intercessor	Lector	Readings
04/07/2021 Trinity 5	Here are the readings for the Sunday services in July				2 Samuel 5.1-5,9-10 Mark 6.1-13
1/07/2021 Trinity 6					2 Samuel 6.1-5, 12b-19 Mark 6. 14-29
18/07/2021 Trinity 7					2 Samuel 7.1-14a Mark 6.30-34, 53 to end
25/07/2021 James the Apostle					2 Corinthians 4.7-17 Matthew 20. 20-28

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 BENEFICE OF PONTEFRACT

St. Giles' with St. Mary

St Giles' Church, Market Place, Pontefract
St Mary's Church, The Circle, Chequerfield

Tel: 01977 790448

Canon June Lawson
Fr Sam Flethcer
Fr Michael Taylor (Honorary Priest)
Fr Rod Walker
Fr Mark Watkins

Tel: 01977 706803
Tel: 07938 517350
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)		Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary	
David Brooks	798599	Janet Colvill/Marjorie Laidlaw	704864/795748
PCC Vice Chairman		Children's Society Box Secretary	
Barbara Sessford	699058	Angela Bradley	613643
Churchwardens		Missions Committee Secretary	
Bruce Dalgleish	07809 760993	Edith Barber	277226
Barbara Sessford	699058	Pro-Wardens at St Mary's	
Peter Lavine	07910 377989	Frank Ward	
Pam Mercer	780804	St Mary's Church Secretary	
PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator		Vacancy	
Vivienne Smales	790448	St Mary's Church Treasurer	
stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com		Delia Perrett	796223
PCC Treasurer		David Leigh	706526
David Leigh	706526	St Mary's Church Meeting Chair	
Organist and Choir Director		David Brooks	798599
James MacDonald	790448	St Mary's Community Centre	
Tower Captain		Manager: Denise Pallett	705341
Adrian Garner	690154	St Giles' Church School (aided)	
Parish Magazine Editor		Head teacher: Richard Grace	794175
Bruce Dalgleish	690216	St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair	
St Giles' Altar Flowers		Andy Weston	07791 656820
Barbara Chessman	700559	St Giles' Tiddlywinks (pre school)	
St Giles Good Share, No.6 The Circle		Barbara Lavine	799929
Paul and Ann Harris	07808 808977	Sheila Roydhouse	793045

Prioritising

Martha cooked
But Mary looked
And sat at the Master's feet,
It's a story of old
But we are told
It's where man and God can meet.

So much to do
But think it through
There's a place for you and me,
To spend time with the Lord
And be found in His word
It's where we are meant to be.

So find a place
To seek His face
Where the Lord Himself is found
With a God who cares
Hears all our prayers
The place where grace abounds.

By Megan Carter

St Giles' Guide Book



On sale now
only £3