

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles' with St Mary*



September 2021

OPENING AND MANAGING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS IN STEP 4 OF THE ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN

Church of England guidance 1 September 2021 notes that 'the Government has moved from overarching rules to stop the spread of the virus to guidance that emphasises the personal and corporate responsibility of individuals and organisations undertake actions to protect others and themselves'.

Please note:

- We advise that those able to wear masks continue to wear them for services, including singing, and when moving around church.
- Small groups to make a decision on the necessity of masks or otherwise.
- When seated in the café, masks are not required, but advised when entering or leaving.
- Hand sanitizer stations will continue to be available and their use encouraged.
- Doors will continue to be left open to improve ventilation.
- If you would like seat space left between you and the next person, please take a card from reception to place on the seat beside you.
- The gaps between rows will be reduced. Strict socially distanced seating will be retained in the balcony.
- 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.
- As yet we are not able to return to serving refreshments after Sunday services, though Wednesday and Saturday refreshments resumed in the café from 1st September.
- Though not now mandatory, we will continue to provide additional cleaning of the church during this period.

It is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering, though the government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed settings to protect themselves and others.

This month's cover picture shows a painting, Harvest, by the Croatian Naïve artist M Vrius (1938)

PARISH OF PONTEFRACT

St Giles' with St Mary

Antonio Vivaldi wrote one of the most famous and popular pieces of music, The Four Seasons, a musical expression of the year.

As we creep towards the year end we embark into the autumn season. The time of harvest.

Go back to the end of last year, the fields were busy with the drilling of wheat. It didn't take long before green shoots appeared, grew to a few inches, and then stopped. The turn of the year brought further drilling of barley. This germinated and spring brought steady growth. Now, as I look upon acres of wheat, ready to be harvested, and as I wrote this, the wheat was cut, baled and those bales taken away. This process has been going on from time immemorial. What has changed is the way fields are sown and reaped. From scattering of seeds from a pouch to the highly mechanised machinery seen in the fields today. The cutting, via a scythe to the massive combine harvesters.

I, like a few, remember the old threshing machines, binders etc. Now we have something more sophisticated. It is not just machinery that has changed, but the climate.

Harvest time is a marvellous time. The result of hard work, preparation and reaping. It is, of course not just crops, but all manner of things, which we, as custodians of our planet, extract.

Over the years a great deal has been said about climate change, but it was not until recent months that all of a sudden "A wake up call" brought on by floods, fires and soaring temperatures., has made us stop and think. To cap it all...Coronavirus.

This is not the first time is it? We see this numerous times in the book of Genesis. For example, famine drives the biblical characters of **Abraham to Egypt**, Isaac to the land of the Philistines and Jacob and his entire family to Egypt. These plagues are described in **chapters 7 through to 11** of the book of Exodus. The plagues were water turned into blood, frogs, lice, gnats, diseased livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness for three days and killing of firstborn sons.

To continue to enjoy the fruits of God's creation we have to preserve and nurture what we have. This also applies to humanity itself.

As the combines rumble around us, we look forward to another year. We pray that it will be an improvement, but isn't it down to us?

Respect what we have and above all each other.

God Bless,

Fr Michael

March 2020 until ?

You've got to stay indoors, you're vulnerable, old and weak.
Me? Old, yes, but vulnerable, huh, that's just Boris-Speak.

You must stay sheltered, let no-one visit you, save one,
Well it's only for a week or two, 'til this nasty flu has gone.

No church on Sunday, no Wednesday Bridge, nor Thursday Whist,
No Bible group, no Arthritis club, no great-grandchild to be kissed.

When at last, I can go out, wash hands, a mask upon my face,
Visit the outside market, I am careful to leave a space.

Christmas is coming, when we can have some fun,
It will only be a month or two 'til this covid thing is done.

In December vaccination centres opened for folks like me and you.
I was one of the first in Yorkshire, probably in the world, it's true.

I've learnt a new language with which to tax my brain,
Astrazeneca, Pfizer, Coronavirus, new Delta strain.

The war robbed us oldies of our teenage years,
Is now the time to reinstate our fears?

No! Now as then, keep calm, smile and carry on,
In a year or two this pandemic will be gone.

Joyce Bellamy





WAKEFIELD ROAD - PONTEFRACT - WEST YORKSHIRE - WF8 4HA
Tel: (01977) 600550 / 600044 Fax: (01977) 690387
E-mail: bookings@kingscrofthotel.com www.kingscrofthotel.com

TINY TICKERS
FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON
Thurs 9th Sept 2021, Midday for 12.30pm
With Joe O'Brien

Featuring music from the Rat Pack and Michael Bublé
£22.95 per head

Starter

Fanned Honeydew Melon accompanied with Forest Berries

Main Course

*Roast Breast of Chicken with Creamed Mash and a
Chardonnay White Wine Sauce*

Dessert

Citrus Lemon Tart with Clotted Cream

Coffee and Mints

FOR BOOKINGS, PLEASE CONTACT

LINDA ATKINS Tel 07952 146569; lindaroma2@btinternet.com or
Kings Croft Hotel



tiny tickers

Mary's Birthday Wish

I love to live.....

Today dear Lord, I'm 80 and there's so much to be done,
I hope dear Lord you'll let me live until I'm 81.
But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do,
Will you please let me stay awhile until I'm 82?
So many places I want to go, so very much to see,
Do you think you could manage to make it 83?
The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store
And I'd like it very much to live 'till I'm 84.
And then if I am still alive, I'd like to stay 'till 85!
By then who knows what happens next, so I'd really like to stick
And see what happens to the world when I turn 86.
I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask (and it must be nice in Heaven)
But I'd really like to stay until I'm 87.
I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes I'll be late,
But it would be so pleasant to be around at least to 88!
I will have seen so many things and had a lovely time,
So I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave at 89.
Just one more thing I'd like to say dear Lord, I thank you very kindly,
But if it's okay with you, I'd love to live past 90!

Mary
St Mary's Church, Chequerfield



Coffee Mornings at St Giles

will resume on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting
on

Wednesday, 1st September 2021,

10.00am—12.00pm.

Come and join us.

1st September: St Giles of Provence—helping those damaged by life

St Giles was an immensely popular saint in the Middle Ages, and no wonder: he was the patron saint of cripples. In those days, there were many people who, once injured, were never really whole again. Even today, a serious injury – either physical or mental or emotional, can leave us damaged for months, years or even longer. At such times, we, too, find inspiration in others who, though also damaged by life, have not been overwhelmed.

St Giles was probably born in Provence, southern France early in the 7th century. The 10th century *Legenda Aurea* (Golden Legend) tells us he lived as a holy hermit deep in the forest of Nîmes, near the mouth of the Rhone. A hind, or Red Deer, was his only companion. Then one day, while out hunting, King Wamba spotted the deer, and pursued it. The hind fled back to St Giles for protection. King Wamba shot an arrow which missed the deer but pierced the saint who was protecting it. Thus the king encountered the saint. The saint's acceptance of his injury, and his holiness greatly impressed the king, who conceived a great admiration for St Giles.



Seventeenth century Saint Giles courtesy of the National Art Gallery,

In the end, much good came out of the original harm of the encounter, for the king built St Giles a monastery in his valley, Saint-Gilles-du-Gard. The little monastery was put under the Benedictine rule and became a source of blessing for the area roundabout. In later years, St Giles' shrine would become an important pilgrimage centre on the route for both Compostela and the Holy Land, as well as in its own right.

There is a further story connected with St Giles. Another legend tells how an emperor sought forgiveness from him for a sin so terrible he dared not even confess it. While St Giles said Mass, he saw written for him by an angel the nature of the sin in question. But his prayers for the emperor were so efficacious that the letters naming the sin faded away. As Christians, we know that the Bible urges us to pray for others, no matter how hopelessly London. bad they seem, because Christ's mercy and forgiveness are extended

to everyone who truly turns to Him and repents.

St Giles, the crippled saint who helped others find wholeness with God, became patron saint of cripples, lepers and nursing mothers. In England 162 ancient churches are dedicated to him, including our very own church here in Pontefract, as well as at least 24 hospitals. The most famous of these are St Giles in Edinburgh and St Giles in Cripplegate, London.

In art, St Giles is represented as either a simple abbot with staff, or protecting the hind, or saying the Mass, and thus interceding for the emperor.

Revised opening times at St Giles

- Sunday Eucharist 10.15am
- Wednesday Mass 9.30am
- Friday Mass 10.30am (from 10 September 2021)
- Lunch with Us (takeaway service) continues on Wednesdays between 12.00-1.00pm
- Open Church (from 6 September) 10.00am-2.00pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and Fridays between 10.00am-12.00pm only.
- The Church, including the café are additionally open on Wednesdays between 10.00am-12.00pm and Saturdays between 9.00am-12.00pm.

The opportunity to pray or light a candle is available on each day.

Bell Ringing

Have you ever wondered who is ringing the bells on Sundays as you walk into church, or what it would be like to ring the bells?

Then why not give it a go.

New members are always welcome at practice.

Monday evenings

7.30pm—9.00pm

in the bell tower.



Summer Report on No 6 The Circle

This summer has been a particularly busy time at No 6.

Weekly deliveries to our Pantry members have continued. We have been fortunate to receive supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables from Fare Share to pass on to our members and have begun to deliver these as soon as received to minimise waste and to ensure they are received in peak condition.

Unfortunately, the shortage of HGV drivers has meant that donations by the big supermarkets to Fare Share, our main supplier, have reduced in size and variety with a knock-on effect for No 6. The Project is beginning to run low on staples such as breakfast cereals and UHT milk and donations would be welcome.

With a lot of help from volunteers from St Mary's, St Giles' and the local area, we have supplied supper packs and fresh fruit to the families of children attending Happy and Healthy Holiday Activity Days at the Collieries Football Club. This is one of range of projects funded by the Government in response to the "Holiday Hunger" campaigns led by Marcus Rashford and others. Over 30 similar projects have taken place in the WMDC area during August.

Food Share has delivered food parcels to families nominated by local schools, the Foodbank and Pontefract Community Kitchen. By the end of the summer holidays, we expect to have delivered 3500 person-meals from No 6.

None of this activity would have been possible without the commitment, enthusiasm and generosity of the No 6 volunteers. "Volunteering" has a comforting and comfortable resonance but takes on another dimension when it involves moving 2 cages of food from a local supermarket to storage in a torrential rainstorm!

So thank you everyone who has made this summer possible at No 6. It wouldn't have happened without your help.

Paul and Ann

August 2021

The re-slating of the South Nave Roof

This work was first identified as urgent in our Quinquennial Inspection of 2018 by our church architect, with a recommendation that it be completed by 2020. Quotes were obtained, permissions granted and a contractor was selected following the usual processes. Work was planned to start in summer of 2020 but problems caused by the pandemic meant the start date was delayed and with winter approaching it was thought wise to delay till the following spring.

The scaffolding was erected early April 2021 and work on the roof commenced on the eighteenth of that month with good progress made until the rains came in May, with records showing the fourth highest rainfall since records started! Regardless of this, the contractors battled on and I'm pleased to report that the work is now completed.

Did the project run smoothly? Well. Yes, there were hiccups along the way, as you would expect when dealing with roofs of this age. When many of the slates were removed it was found that they were not re-useable and replacements had to be found. This proved to be the most difficult part of the project and re-used 'Burlington' slates came from various locations throughout the country. Some of the slates were huge, measuring more than a metre in length and breadth. Also some of the timber sections of the roof needed repair work and a pronounced 'dip' at the south east end required levelling up. When this was completed all the





timbers were treated with preservative. It's interesting to note that the roof timbers on this part of the roof (South Nave) were replaced when the South Aisle roof was rebuilt in 1882 and reclaimed timber, probably from sailing ships was used. A thermal lining has been introduced below the new slates and this will allow the roof to breath and keep the timbers 'healthy'.

Our thanks go to our contractors Paul Furniss and Sons who have produced work of the highest standard under difficult conditions and it is hoped that this work will keep the church watertight for many, many years to come.

Peter Lavine for the Fabric Committee.



AT LAST – Monday 6th September, we meet in Church at 1.30pm. Hope you can all make it, looking forward to seeing you.

8th September: The birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary – by Sam Fletcher

The thread that bound her to God
was never cut – a channel still flows between
creator and creation, the mingling of bloods,
the diffusion of unboundaried love.

The Holy One in the feeding trough
confounds men's speculations on the Pure.
We ought to call her undefiled not because
she did not know what men can do

but because even as a soldier drove a spear
into the flesh of God—and pierced her own soul, too—
her spirit was unbroken, ever-defiant.

As she wept to see the lowly lifted up,

and saw the hidden thoughts of men
inflicted on the body of her son,
she would not retract a single word
of her first anthem. If nothing will be impossible

with God, then *somehow* on that lonely hill,
the mighty were brought down, the hungry fed,
the Lord had yet remembered mercy and
the promise made to Sarah was fulfilled.

So she stood there, shaking desperately
with rage, and looked up to the darkened skies,
and—with throat raw—began once more to sing:

My soul still magnifies the Lord.

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

Heritage Open Day at St Giles' Church

Saturday, 11th September, 10.00am-2.30pm

St Giles' Church will be participating in the Pontefract Heritage Open Days, with various locations around Pontefract also taking part.

At St Giles, guides will show visitors around the church and highlight interesting areas such as:

- ◇ St Oswald's Chapel (military area) to explain the connection between the military and the church, Pontefract's Roll of Honour and the Burma Star Association flag, which is in the chapel.
- ◇ History of the Font
- ◇ Mayors and Officers pews in the church
- ◇ Ceiling bosses
- ◇ Lady Chapel statue
- ◇ Stained glass windows



The Bell Tower will be open from **10.00am to 12.00pm** to enable people to visit the ringing room and learn about the bells.

Refreshments will be available in the café.

For a list of other properties and events participating in the open days, please visit the following site for further information <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/printable-area-lists/town/Pontefract>



*Let our family take care of your family
in your time of need!*

Private Chapel of Rest
Pre-paid funeral plans available
A CARING PERSONAL SERVICE

Caring for families of Normanton, Castleford and Pontefract

1 - 9 Saville Road
CASTLEFORD
01977 555 733

198 Castleford Road
NORMANTON
01924 899 998

Chris McTigue & Sarah McTigue

Perfect 10

Nail Studio

Gillygate, Pontefract

01977 704003

CND Acrylic nail extensions, Glitter and artwork available.

Shellac, Vinylux manicure.

Minx and deluxe Pedicure.

The perfect tan: LA spray tanning now available at Perfect 10.

Gift vouchers available

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

14th September: Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them – the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

15th September: Remembering the Battle of Britain

The anniversary of the day on which the Battle turned in Britain's favour and Hitler realized that it would not be possible to invade without incurring huge losses from air attack. Covid permitting, the Spitfires will be up in the sky this month, and we will watch in wonder and gratitude."

Spitfire

The heavens ring with Merlin's roar
We gaze in wonder from the ground
To see a great old aircraft soar
And marvel at the engine's sound.

The Spitfire loops and rolls and dives
We smile and gasp and clap and cheer;
The pilot shows his skill and strives
To make us think he has no fear!

No fear – but eighty years ago
Young men of barely adult age
Sat in those planes, true courage shown
They flew into the battle's rage.

They too would loop and roll and dive
Not to impress a watching crowd
But so that Britain might survive –
And hist'ry shows they did us proud!

So many died within those planes
The watchers would with horror see
A blazing trail of smoke and flames
As brave men died to keep us free.

Yes – watch the Spitfire, and rejoice
Rejoice to see the pilot's skill.
Remember those who had no choice
But met the foe with iron will.

By Nigel Beeton

CHARLES E ASHTON & SON

A personal and caring

FUNERAL SERVICE



A long established & trusted family company.



Chapel of Rest

at

14 Wakefield Road, Pontefract

Telephone: 600074

www.ashtonsfunerals.co.uk

Approved pre-payment scheme available



A room for all occasions.

For more information about charges and availability contact
Bill Bradley
Tel 01977 613643 Mob. 07759 524979
W.R.T.Bradley@btinternet.com
www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk

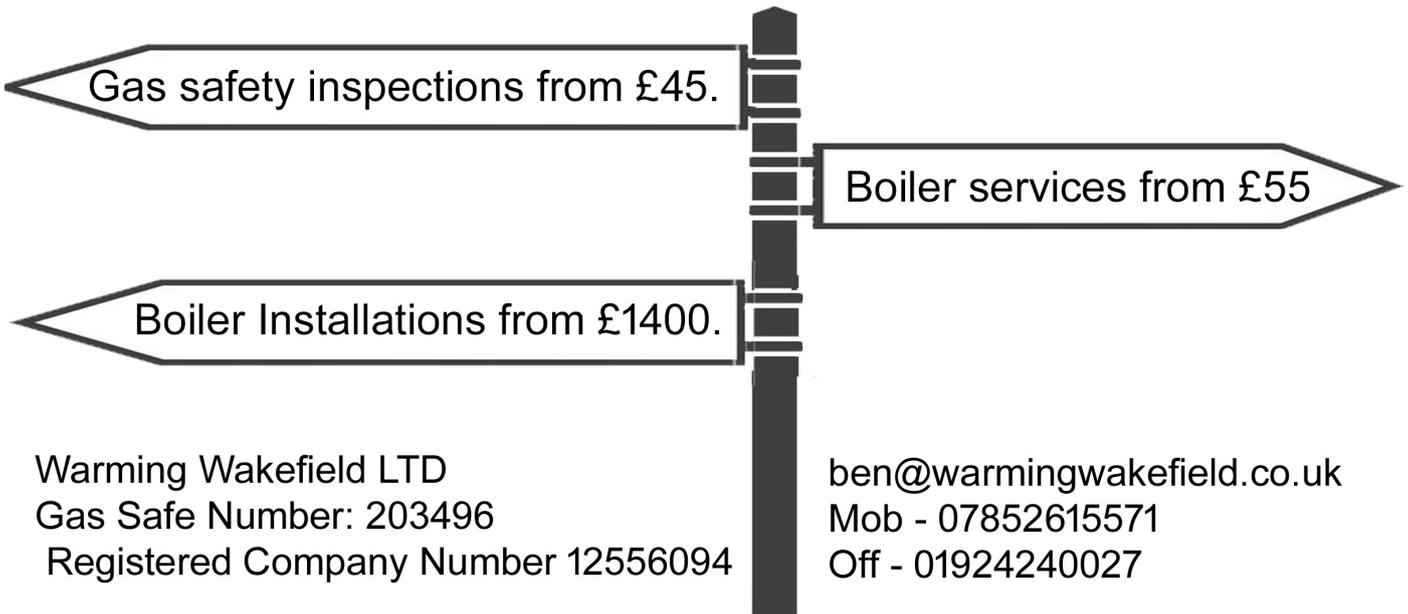




Your local gas & heating engineer
For all your heating & plumbing needs

Warming Wakefield Ltd Is a small, local, friendly, reliable company.

- We specialise in plumbing and heating services.
- We offer a price match guarantee on all our services.
- We offer 24/7 call out.
- We are gas safe registered, and are fully insured!
- Please get in touch for a free quote, no job too small or too big!



Warming Wakefield LTD
Gas Safe Number: 203496
Registered Company Number 12556094

ben@warmingwakefield.co.uk
Mob - 07852615571
Off - 01924240027

FINANCE AVAILABLE

From 11.9% APR Representative

Spread the cost of your boiler replacement over 3 - 10 years with Phoenix Financial Consultants

Phoenix Financial Consultants Ltd (Company no. 7436334) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Financial Services Register no. 539195) and acts as credit broker introducing loans from a panel of lenders.



ST GILES' CHURCH, PONTEFRACT

PRESENTS

*A Special
Organ Recital
by
Thomas Moore
to celebrate*

**THE ORGAN
OF
ST GILES' CHURCH**

GIVING THANKS FOR
THE LONG WORK OF REBUILDING AND RESTORATION

Saturday 2nd October at 4.30pm

Drinks and nibbles from 4 o'clock

Admission free

EGD2021

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

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 October's magazine is
Wednesday, September 22nd.**

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

Y.M.C.A. Charity Shop

YMCA Charity Shop, Horsefair,
Pontefract.

Large white goods, menswear and
furniture urgently needed.

Please ring 01977 792679 for free
collection.

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



A Stitch in Time



Alterations for all occasions

Sarah Brightmore
Owner

sarahsbright1996@gmail.com

16 Gillygate
Pontefract
WF8 1PQ
07449501045

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

Tiddlywinks

Service and Fun for the
'Under 5s'

+ their Parent, Grandparent or Carer

Thursdays

(during term time)

At St Giles' Church

10.30 a.m. till 11.45a.m.

Refreshments available - small donation

COME AND JOIN US



Andrew J. Peaker

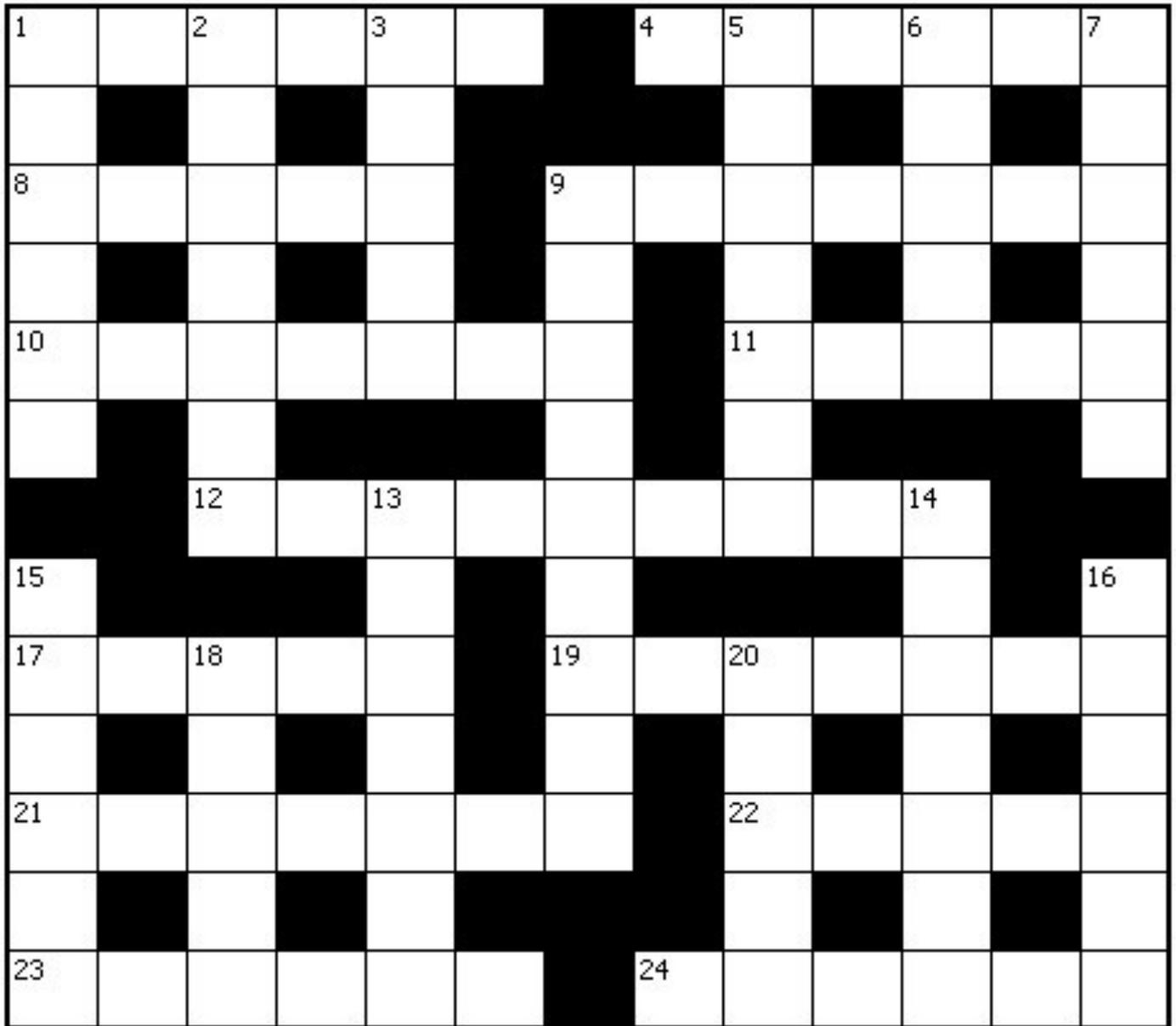
Peak Accounting Services

- Complete Accountancy Service
- Self-Assessment Returns
- Wages / Book Keeping
- Annual Accounts Preparation
- Taxation & VAT

Free Initial Consultation

1 Langdale Drive, Low Ackworth
Pontefract WF7 7PX Tel: 01977 614912

Crossword



Questions

Clues Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (I Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)

- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 ' Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

Answers can be found on page 34



AJK Legal Services

Wills and Lasting Power of Attorneys

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

We pride ourselves on a quality service provided in the comfort of your own home.

Alison Knox, our founder member, is a Chartered Legal Executive with over 30 years Legal experience in a local Solicitors practice.

For further information, or to request a home visit please contact

Alison Knox

Tel: 07812-700301

Email: AJKlegalservices@gmail.com



AJK Legal Services
4 Fairways Court
Darrington
WF8 3DH



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

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

We are free, confidential, independent and impartial

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

(Debt/Benefits/Housing/Employment/Family)

Telephone 03444 111 444

(Universal Credit – Help to Claim)

Telephone 0800 144 8 444

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

Telephone 0808 223 1133

Email us via

www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk

Web chat with us at

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us/

Citizens Advice Wakefield District is a registered charity. Although part of the national Citizens Advice network we are independent and run locally for the residents of Wakefield District.

God in the Arts

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish. You can see a copy of the illustration at: <http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi1900.htm>

'How wonderful creation is'

There is a story that someone asked a Father of the early church, Tertullian, to prove the existence of God.

He replied by showing the person a rose. But Tertullian took a risk, for while many appreciate the beauty and wonder of a rose, it is not everyone who sees that beauty pointing to God as its creator.

In one of his hymns, Fr Faber wrote: 'How wonderful creation is, The work which thou didst bless, And O! what then must Thou be like – Eternal loveliness.' A rose can speak of beauty and speak of God to some; to others a rose is just another flower in the garden. William Blake wrote, 'The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing which stands in the way.' We know that only too well when forests are cut down in the name of progress, and trees that have stood for centuries are hewn down in a moment.

This month's work of art is 'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish: it shows a man standing in a forest of venerable and imposing trees, and the hills stretching out behind him. Maxfield Parrish was an American artist, who created paintings of brilliant colour and luminosity. The particular cobalt he used was known as 'Parrish blue.' Much of his work was for illustrations in books and magazines and in advertising. But here is an early drawing of 1897, based in a New England forest, that has a haunting quality about it. He drew it to accompany a poem of Marian Warner Wildman where the writer goes into the forest to escape the doubts and worries of the world and to find release and peace. It ends with the lines:

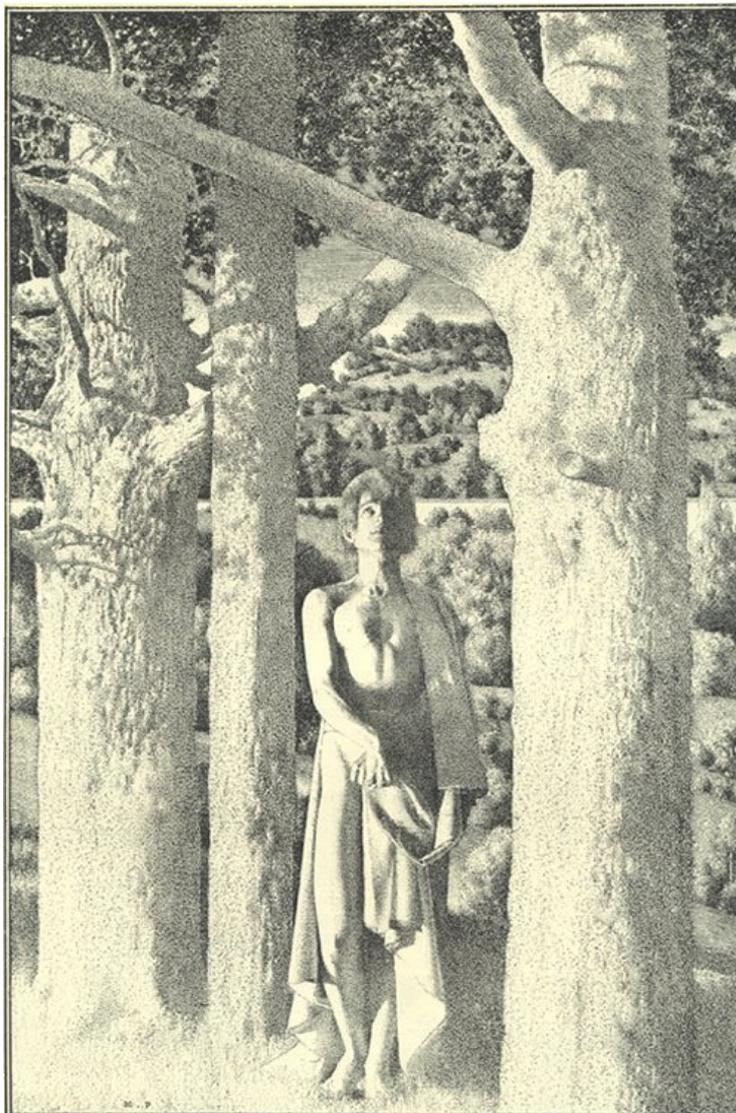
'I love thee with a beauty-broken heart
And worship thee, be whatever thou art.'

The drawing may evoke for us memories of forests and countryside we have explored, with trees towering above us, reaching to the sky, their leaves rustling in the wind and letting shafts of sunlight through. Like the artist, we may have wondered at their age and beauty and pondered the mystery of creation around us. In their beauty we can glimpse their Creator; in the miracle of their life, we can see the bringer of life and eternal life. For

scripture begins with trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with the story of how human pride exchanges paradise for hard work and toil.

But the final pages of the Bible describe that tree of life once again: this time arching over the river that runs through the heavenly city with leaves that bring healing and restoration. And bridging that tree of Genesis and the tree of Revelation is the wood of the cross: 'None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be.' In that tree we can truly glory.

Autumn will soon be with us, and the magnificence of the trees around will fade as their leaves fall and are swept away. After the death of winter, spring will come and bring the miracle of new life to their roots and branches, and once again we can behold their glory, like the traveller in the forest of Maxfield Parrish's drawing – trees that remind us of 'the one and only noble tree': the Cross that is the sign of salvation for all seasons and all lives.



Maxfield Parrish's illustration for A Hill Prayer by Mirian Warner Wildman, Century Magazine, December, 1899

Notes from the PCC Meeting held on 20 July 2021

Twelve members of the PCC were present for the meeting with five members sending their apologies.

Minutes of the last PCC meeting held on 11th May 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate record. The only matter arising from these minutes was that First Aid Training was due for renewal and the training was carried out on Monday, 19th July 2021. Minutes of the Standing Committee meetings held on 8 June and 6 July 2021 were also accepted.

The new **Safeguarding** Dashboard has been started, which generates an Action Plan specific to St Giles. Six activities, which fall under Safeguarding, were approved and accepted by the PCC. These include Bell ringing, Choir, Junior Church, Lunch with Us, Pastoral Visiting and Tiddlywinks. The Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Insurance all come under the umbrella of St Giles. A check will be made with the Diocesan Safeguarding Office to ascertain which level of safeguarding training is required by leaders of activities, churchwardens and PCC members. The Ex-Offenders Policy and the Role Descriptions for the Tower Captain and volunteer Bell Ringers were agreed and accepted by the PCC.

Three additional **policies** were agreed and accepted and these were the 'Hardship Fund', 'Counting, Recording, Banking of Monies' and 'Lone Worker Policy'.

With the lifting of **lockdown restrictions** by the UK Government, St Giles' Church will be adopting a cautious approach to relaxing restrictions. After Sunday, 25th July, people will be able to sit where they like but keeping two chairs width between different groups. Some areas (balcony and café area) will still be set aside for those wishing to maintain social distancing. Full details would be published in the weekly notices. A further review will take place later in August with a view to lessening restrictions further.

Bruce Dalglish had delivered to all PCC members a mock-up (both A4 and A5) of the proposed new format for the **parish magazine** prior to the meeting. The success of the new format would be very dependent upon the content and people supplying items for the publication. The majority of the PCC agreed with the new format and change to bi-monthly publication and gave their approval for BD to continue with the A5 size for the new

publication. The changes to be implemented at a suitable point in the coming months.

Finance Reports were received with the Treasurer advising that everything was running much as predicted but that we would be looking at a deficit of over £20K by the end of the year. Unfortunately, the reopening of the Café has been delayed due to Covid-19 and so income from refreshments will be lower than that predicted. Coffee mornings will restart in September on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but this is totally reliant upon volunteers. The St Giles' Centre is struggling at the moment as outgoings outweigh income although several new enquiries have been received.

The issue of **Stewardship** was discussed and a small group will be drawn together to brainstorm ideas for fundraising, ie running afternoon teas in the summer. People will be approached to join this group. Donations from the community could be made easier with the possibility of installing a machine that allows people to give by using credit or debit cards. The Treasurer will look into this facility.

The **Fabric, Health & Safety Report** was received and indicated that the South Aisle roof will be finished this week. The project had taken longer and had cost more than originally estimated due to the number of old tiles which had cracked and required replacing. In addition to grants received, the PCC is contributing c. £24K. The full cost will be reported in due course. The gutters have also been cleaned.

The Fabric Health and Safety meetings have now restarted and the current committee would welcome new members, especially from anyone with an interest in historic buildings or any skills that would lend themselves to this role. Volunteers could be sought from church members and also from the local community.

Karen Glynn is working hard on the **Heritage Day event** which is taking place on Saturday September 11th and provided an update for the meeting. She will be seeking volunteers in due course.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday, 14th September at 7.00pm.

Bilberry Season – by Sam Fletcher

The August before leaving for uni, a few of us went up to the Tops, where we used to pick bilberries when we were little (whenever there was a good season, and we could avoid the older lads who would perch along an overhanging rock, laughing and flicking pebbles at passers-by) –

He'd been really odd all Summer. While we were buried in textbooks, he was always out at the park, speaking wildly to a gathered crowd—faces we didn't recognise, and none of them from round here.

He didn't even show up to his exams, and wouldn't tell us his plans for next year, just that he was going to live with his Dad (his Dad who we'd never met, but heard crazy stories.)

His face had changed as well, his jaw tighter, his eyes heavy and purposeful—he laughed with us like he always had, but when the conversation lulled we would catch him looking into the distance, anxious about something.

Anyway, we were up on the Tops, sharing memories and inside jokes, when, as we stood on that overhanging rock, there was a gap in the clouds and – I don't know how to say this – and suddenly

it was like the sunlight caught his face, and somehow gathered there, until it was as if he *was* the sunlight. We couldn't look at him without seeing the dark blotches of a burning retina. We couldn't look away.

(I can't tell you what happened after that; it's more than memory can bear).

But *right in the middle of all this*, Simon—and I cannot stress how oblivious this was—Simon wanted to take a *photo*.

The light shot into the phone screen and it shattered, crackled white-hot and leapt from Simon's scorched hands, tumbling over the cliff.

I think I passed out, because the next thing I remember is looking up and seeing him—now just as he always was, but with a beaming grin – holding out the tub of bilberries, passing them round to us.

Once we each had a handful, he took a single berry, held it up to the light, and squeezed it, looking to the horizon as the purple juice ran down his hands, pooling in his open palm.

Bric-a-brac Stall

There will be a Bric-a-brac stall on **Wednesday, 22nd September** to raise funds for our church. Any items you can donate may be brought into church or if you need your donations to be collected please call Pam on 01977 780804 or 07999807344.

Knit and Natter

Another opportunity to raise funds for our church. If you can knit - garter stitch, this is for you!

On Thursday, 23rd September we are having a Knit and Natter session in church from **2.30pm - 4pm**, an hour's knitting and half an hour for refreshments. What is involved? Knitters will obtain a few (or more) sponsors to give an amount for each line of knitting - 40 stitches, double knitting wool, size 8 needles.

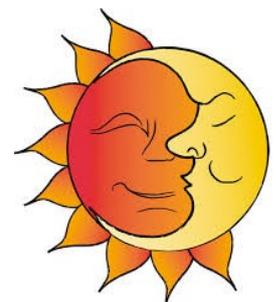
Needles and wool can be provided if you are unable to supply your own. To take part please add your name to the list in Reception or for further details contact Pam on 01977 780804 or 07999807344.



23rd September: When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night

23rd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere).

The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.



29th September: Michael and All Angels

St Michael is an archangel, whose name means 'who is like unto God?' He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is 'one of the princes' of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil.

From early times, St Michael's cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire), Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael's Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, St Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him.

In art St Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in the 14th century East Anglian Psalters, or in Epstein's famous sculpture at Coventry cathedral. Or he is found (in medieval art) as weighing souls, as at Chaldon (Surrey), Swalcliffe (Oxon.), Eaton Bishop (Hereford and Worcester), and Martham in Suffolk. St Michael's most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michel, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century.

The 'All Angels' bit of this feast-day was added in 1969 when Gabriel and Raphael were included in with St Michael.

Crossword Answers:

ACROSS

1 access; 4 blinds; 8 rhyme; 9 loyalty; 10 Antwerp; 11 Aeon; 12 loftiness; 17 Satan; 19 Obadiah; 21 on earth; 22 storm; 23 exhale; 24 depths

DOWN

1 Adrian; 2 crystal; 3 siege; 5 lay bare; 6 nylon; 7 saying; 9 Lappidoth; 13 funeral; 14 spit out; 15 ashore; 16 Thomas; 18 teeth; 20 aisle

Book Share at No 6

At the beginning of the school summer holidays, Pontefract Community Books, coordinated by Yvette Cooper's office and St Mary's Centre, generously donated some quality children's books to offer for free at No 6. The books are displayed outside No 6 each time we open with a notice inviting people to browse and take a book or two away. Currently we are including bookmarks that advertise the Council's Library Summer Reading Challenge.

The initiative is modelled on the "Little Free Library" projects which started in the USA and are now developing in the UK for example in some branches of Morrisons. Locally, there are "Little Free Libraries" at St Mary's Community Centre, outside Larks Hill School and in the front garden of a house in Banks Avenue. The Little Free Libraries organisation estimate that 42 million books are shared each year through partner Little Free Libraries.

The response to Book Share has been really encouraging. Local children, parents and grandparents have used the facility, with positive comments received from readers of all ages and offers of food donations too.

Clutching his 3 top reads from the box, our youngest reader prompted us to evaluate the project with a most perceptive question "why are you chucking all these books away?" His own review of his summer holiday on Chequerfield – "boring" – and how the Book Share books could help with this has decided us that Book Share is a useful development at No 6. We have also been encouraged by the idea which many education and mental health professionals have suggested that books actually benefit children's mental and physical health as providing fun escapism and relaxation.

So, for as long as the weather holds, we would like to keep Book Share going at No 6. If you have any quality books for children of all ages that you could donate, please contact us and we would be delighted to take them from you. No 6 is open to receive donations on Monday and Friday mornings 9.00-11.45 or ring us to make arrangements.

Paul and Ann

Tel 078 088 089 77



Funerals in August

No funerals took place in church this month

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

Year's mind for September. We give thanks for the lives of:

4 Joan Godridge; Dennis Alan Law **5** Ellen May Hemstock **6** Kenneth Cook
9 Eliza Longsdale Lemmon **14** Jim Faulkner; Gary Nelson; Margaret Turner
15 Edith Brentnall **17** Jonathan Andrew Leigh **21** Gwendoline Whitcombe
23 Sydney Kaye **24** Edward Kirkwood **28** David James Godridge; Shirley Law

*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 Vivienne using -*

stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Open Church Rota

Commencing Monday, 6th September 2021

Monday	10.00am – 12.00pm	Barbara Sessford Maureen Spurr
	12.00pm – 2.00pm	Sheila Roydhouse Ann Margetson
Tuesday	10.00am – 12.00pm	Josie Harrison Margaret Coverdale Geoff Hancox
	12.00pm – 2.00pm	Ian Wood
Wednesday	Morning	Coffee morning
	Afternoon	Lunch with Us
Thursday	10.00am – 12.00pm	Tiddlywinks Peter and Barbara Lavine
	12.00pm – 2.00pm	Sonia Atkin and Anne Cooper
Friday	10.00am – 12.00pm	Janet Robinson

Date	Service	Warden	
05/09/2021 Trinity 14 St Giles' Patronal	10.15 am Eucharist	Barbara Sessford	James 2.1-10 14-17 Mark 7.24 to end
12/09/2021 Trinity 15	10.15 am Eucharist	Peter Lavine	James 3.1-12 Mark 8.27 to end
19/09/2021 Trinity 16	10.15 am Eucharist	Bruce Dalglish	James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a Mark 9.30-37
26/09/2021 Trinity 17	10.15 am Eucharist	Pam Mercer	James 5.13 to end Mark 9.38 to end

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	

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 Fletcher
Fr Michael Taylor (Honorary Priest)
Fr Rod Walker

Tel: 01977 706803
Tel: 07938 517350
Tel: 01977 702824
Tel: 07746 980727

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 Food 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 Dalgleish 07809 760993
 Peter Lavine 07910 377989
 Pam Mercer 780804
 Barbara Sessford 699058

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

Fr Michael Taylor 702824

Tower Captain

Adrian Garner 690154

St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

Parish Magazine Editor

Bruce Dalgleish 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

Pray for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace,

We hold before you the people of Afghanistan.

Be living bread to those who are hungry each day.

Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic.

Be their true home to all who have been displaced.

Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views.

Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.

Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace,

Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care,

Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and

Hold us all in your unfailing love.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness.

Amen

This prayer was written by Ramani Leathard, Christian Aid's Head of Region for South East Asia and Afghanistan.

St Giles' Guide Book



On sale now
only £3