

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles with St Mary*



2022 - February

COVID - A FURTHER UPDATE FROM JANUARY 26th 2022

Within the church we believe that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that as many members within one body we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the most vulnerable'. *Covid-19 Opening and managing church buildings 25th January 2022.*

Following the latest update from the UK Government and Church of England, the wearing of masks whilst entering, leaving or moving around the church building is no longer mandatory, but 'recommended in enclosed or crowded places, particularly where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet'. This is now a matter for personal judgement underpinned by considering what helps each other.

At St Giles', in the next four weeks we are not making any big changes to our present covid safe practices. Our hope is that in coming weeks the current high rates of infection in our District will reduce, making for safer public spaces. So....

- The government still advises that the safest way of public mingling is outdoors, bear that in mind when worship ends.
- Hand sanitizer stations will continue to be available and their use encouraged.
- The wearing of masks throughout services (including the singing of hymns) continues to be advised, but is not mandatory.
- Those leading worship, or singing in the choirs will remove masks for these purposes
- We will continue following a one-way system for coming up for communion and moving around church.
- Doors will continue to be opened at certain points during worship in order to improve ventilation. Please wrap up if you are near to an exit.
- If you would like seat spaces left between you and the next person, please take a card(s) from reception to place on the seats beside you. Strict socially distanced seating will be retained in the balcony.
- The physical sharing of the peace with family seated alongside you is fine.
- We will continue to retain only taking communion in one kind.
- The collection will remain as a basket/plate placed near the north door.
- When seated in the café taking refreshments, masks are not required, but are encouraged for movement around the café.
- The above information applies to all other services in church, but we recognise that it proves difficult to ensure compliance at funerals and baptisms.
- Government guidance still advises increased frequency of cleaning to reduce contact transmission.

Father Rod writes...

As you read this you will be experiencing, with some relief, the lengthening of the days. Getting up in the daylight and later in the day, teatime also. We naturally love light! But what about darkness?

Well, I imagine without darkness we could not appreciate light in the same way.

God's light in Jesus, 'the light of the world that no darkness can overcome', is an inward light shining into the very darkest corners of our being. Jesus illuminates that which we may hope to hide, from ourselves, from others and from God even. We have no need to be ashamed though.

As we face the truth within us, in Christ Jesus, we are given the strength and power to change, to start afresh, to renew ourselves, for God's purposes.

I believe strongly, that God's purpose for each and every one of us is undeniable and will always out, even if we fight it.

This in no way means that we are, or ever will be, perfect.

We are flawed humans after all; but loved beyond measure.

Change is difficult for most of us, either inwardly or to the world around us.

I speak from personal experience.

As I imagine many of you know, Diane and I have owned and managed Carleton Court care home for many years, 21 years in fact. It has been a vocation and privilege to serve God in our efforts to protect and care for



the many hundreds of vulnerable people who chose to live with us. Also, we endeavoured to create, with our staff, a community of mutual support in a Christian environment. We feel we have achieved this by the support of families/residents and by the grace of God. So, it has been a very difficult decision to leave and move on, after much soul searching. We did so at the end of December, and in doing so, have left a very large 'Carleton Court' hole in our lives. We will adjust in time, as no doubt, you who have had life changing experiences can testify. Whether it be bereavement, illness, or loss of one kind or another. Change is mostly painful and unpleasant. God however, in Christ Jesus, leads us on, changed and sometimes bowed down, but never deserted or unloved. As we look forward to the spring and the renewal that nature experiences, I pray that you can embrace daily the opportunity to turn and face the light that shines forth and banishes all darkness; Christ Jesus our redeemer.

Blessings

Fr Rod

This month's cover picture, and those on the inside back cover, were taken at Hodsock Priory, near Blyth.

Dates to remember

(All events at St Giles', unless otherwise noted.)

- Thursday 3rd February: **Whist Drive:** 7pm
- Friday 4th February : **Organ Recital** 1pm
See p11 for details
- Sunday 6th February: **Choral Evensong** 4pm celebrating
The Accession of Elizabeth II to the throne
Bringing in Day for No6: see p17
- Monday 7th February: **Mothers' Union:** 1:30pm
- Thursday 10th February: **Tiny Tickers Coffee Morning**
See p12 for details.
- Wednesday 23rd February: **Beetle Drive:** 6:30pm
- Thursday 24th February: **Deanery Synod:** 7pm
- Wednesday 2nd March: **Ash Wednesday:** Mass at 7pm
- Friday 4th March: **Organ Recital:** Paul Dewhurst: 1pm
- Wednesday 9th March: **Lent Course** begins 10:30am (-> 6th April)
- Friday 11th March **Stations of the Cross:** 9:30am (-> 8th April)
- Saturday 26th March: **Pontefract Choral Society Concert:** 7:30pm
Follow Me 7 at Wakefield Cathedral
See p19 for details

STILL NEEDED!



PLEASE recycle your butter/margarine tubs, preferably 500g but also 1kg for takeaway jacket potatoes at Lunch with Us. Unfortunately the 250g tubs are just a bit too small.

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This is me...

Hello, my name is Cath Fox, and I will be joining the Pontefract Benefice for my placement as part of my training as a Licenced Lay Minister (LLM). I started my training in September 2018, was commissioned last July and, all being well, hope to be licensed later this year.



I became a Christian as a young teenager and have been involved in a variety of churches since then. I have been a churchwarden and been involved with various aspects of church life including young people, study groups and families. My recent journey of faith and discernment of future ministry has been equal parts exciting and challenging and I am really looking forward to joining the Pontefract Benefice and learning from this exciting experience, thank you for the opportunity.

Hailing from Manchester, but don't hold that against me, I live in Wakefield and normally worship at St John the Baptist Church not far from the centre of Wakefield. My day job is an administration officer with responsibility for training with ACAT (The Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers). Beyond work and church I am also a Guide leader. I have been married to Nick for 30 years and we have 2 sons, Chris (23) and Alastair (20).

I am looking forward to meeting everyone and spending time over the next three months getting to know you, the Church in Pontefract.

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 March's magazine is
Sunday 20th February 2022**

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

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From the Parish Register

Baptisms:-

Bobby Leonard Dagger: 23rd January 2022

Deaths:-

Brenda Joyce Milthorpe: † 9th December 2021

Arthur Green: † 19th December 2021

Roy Cutts: † 20th December 2021

Charles William Chapman: † 5th January 2022



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Chris McTigue & Sarah McTigue

Know Your Money

Take a coin out of your purse or pocket and have a good look at it. Do you really know what all the lettering on that coin means?

Inscriptions on British coins date back to the mid 1st century B.C when inscriptions were hammered onto pieces of metal and known as Celtic Staters. The Romans left abundant artefacts after their invasion of Britain in 43AD, many of which were coins which are still found today.

A Roman coin found in Britain some years ago had the inscription:-

FLIVLCONSTAN TIVS PER P AUG, which translated from Latin reads: Flavius Julius Constantius Perpetuus Augustus. The Per P Aug translates as Everlasting Emperor.



Now take a good look at your own coin. You will find the Queen's head, surrounded by letters:-



ELIZABETH II D.G.REG. F.D. Again, this translates as Elizabeth II Dei Gratia Regina Fidei Defensor or, in English, Elizabeth II by the Grace of God, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

Prior to decimalisation our coins were larger, so the Latin inscriptions were not always abbreviated as severely as they are now. For example, a 1939 penny would read:-

GEORGIVS VLD.G.BR.OMN.REX.F.D.IND.IMP which is: George VI. Dei Gratia. Britannia. All. King. Fidei Defensor. India. Emperor. Once again, in English, it reads George VI, by the Grace of God, Britain, all (or every), King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.



OMN is all or every and in context promotes the monarch as ruler of their subjects. The Emperor of India inscription ceased in 1947 when India became an independent nation.

You may see coins which have been minted for special events or celebrations and bear the Queen's head. Many of these coins will have a financial value but look carefully at the inscription, which typically may say:-



ELIZABETH II D.G. REGINA. GIBRALTAR. These coins can only be used financially in the British Overseas Territory stated on the coin: in this case, Gibraltar.

The sovereign holds the title of Defender of the Faith and supreme governor of the Church of England. This dates to the reign of Henry VIII who was granted the title of Defender of the Faith in 1521 by Pope Leo X.

Did you manage to find this window? Probably not! It's in the old choir vestry, above the vicar's vestry at the east end of church, so not on public display.

A pity. I think it's beautiful!



Ten years ago this month this was the view looking west from the chancel steps.



Remember this?



**Monday 21st
February 2022
7pm prompt**

Pontefract Town Hall

Admission

Members FREE

Non-members £3 on the door
or via www.eventbrite.com

Light refreshment
available afterwards

Should restrictions be imposed
on in-person meetings, we will
post updates on social media.

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Mrs Fawcett's Handbag

An entertaining costumed
performance of a suffragette's tale.

Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett GBE (11 June 1847 – 5 August 1929)
was an English politician, writer and feminist.

She campaigned for women's suffrage through legal change and from 1897 to 1919 led Britain's largest women's rights association, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), beginning her political career at the age of 22, at the first women's suffrage meeting.

Fawcett joined the London Suffrage Committee, and in 1869 spoke at the first public pro-suffrage meeting held in London. After the death of Lydia Becker, Fawcett became leader of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), Britain's main suffragist organisation.



**PONTEFRACT
CIVIC SOCIETY**

www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk
info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Organ Recitals in St Giles'

Market Place
Pontefract WF8 1AT

2022 Series Fridays at 1.00pm

(unless otherwise stated)

- | | |
|--|---|
| February 4 th | Sean Montgomery, Hebden Bridge |
| March 4 th | Paul Dewhurst, Bridlington Priory |
| April 1 st | David Baker, Mytholmroyd |
| May 6 th | Thomas Moore, Wakefield |
| Saturday
May 28th
7.00pm tbc | Donald MacKenzie, Odeon
Leicester Square |
| June 3 rd | Ivan Linford, Oakham |
| July 1 st | Marc Murray, Bury Parish Church |

Friday Admission £5 per recital
(includes tea/coffee served from 12.30pm before the recital)

Weekly organ concerts are advertised at www.organrecitals.com



To celebrate Tiny Tickers' Heart Week, I am holding a coffee morning at 4 Carleton Gate, WF8 3PF on Thursday 11th February between 10am and 3pm. Tickets are £5 each and, as always, all proceeds will go to Tiny Tickers. Come along, bring a friend, or two, and help support this wonderful charity. Any Covid recommendations for that date will be observed.

Linda Atkins

From 7th – 14th February, hundreds of people across the country will come together to celebrate and honour heart heroes everywhere by fundraising and raising awareness as part of Tiny Tickers Heart Week 2022.



Congenital heart defects haven't stopped for the coronavirus pandemic. Over the past two years, babies have been born with poorly hearts at a time when everything from scans and birth through to surgery and treatment has been disrupted. The support we provide to these babies, their families, and the health professionals that look after them has never been more important.

<https://www.tinytickers.org/get-involved/donate/>



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).

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

BEETLE DRIVE

The Missions Committee will be holding a Beetle Drive on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 at 6.30pm in the St Giles' Centre.

We would like to invite young and old to join us in another light-hearted evening of fun supporting our fundraising efforts for 2022.

No skill required!

On **6th February** this year Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.



To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from **Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June**. The bank holiday will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

St Giles', led by Karen Glynn, is already actively involved with Pontefract Civic Society in making plans to celebrate the Jubilee of our Queen, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

The **2nd of June, 1953**. I clearly remember sitting on the floor of our living room in Stafford, surrounded by my parents' friends and neighbours, gazing at the box with black and white moving pictures in the corner of the room.

The 'box' had been built by my dad, ably assisted by my mum who wound the coils. He was an electrical engineer, well-versed in valves, condensers and the like and this was the ideal occasion to put his new creation to good use. As I recall the screen was about ten inches wide and the vertical hold kept slipping: (Google it, for those who have no idea what I'm talking about.)

I really wanted to be playing outside. The coronation seemed to last forever and the floor became increasingly hard as the day wore on. Your priorities are very different when you're 4!

Do you remember the day the Queen was crowned? We are planning a special Jubilee edition of our magazine and would welcome your memories of that historic day. Please send them by email to brucedalgleish0@gmail.com , or simply write them down and hand them to me: however brief, however long, they will all be welcome.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



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.

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- Beauty salon
- Little break – Short term care
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- 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.



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Many years ago I was on a cruise where the famous cartoon artist Bill Tidy was making cartoons on people's experiences. I told him about taking school assemblies.

A mum asked her four year old daughter what she had done at school that day, (as Mums always do). Little Megan said, "We went into the big hall and the God Lady came."

My staff never let me forget my new title!

Joyce Bellamy

FOOD DONATIONS TO NO.6 ST GILES' FOODSHARE

Sunday, 6th February is the next day when you can bring in contributions of food for No. 6. We are becoming really short of teabags, one of our staple items we try to include each week. We would be really grateful if you could bear this in mind if you wish to support No. 6 this month and get a small pack of teabags for the trolley in Church. Usual items for donation include: packets of instant custard powder (not the big tubs), tins of rice pudding, tins of soup, tinned curry, biscuits and instant whips. Other items will, of course, be gratefully received.

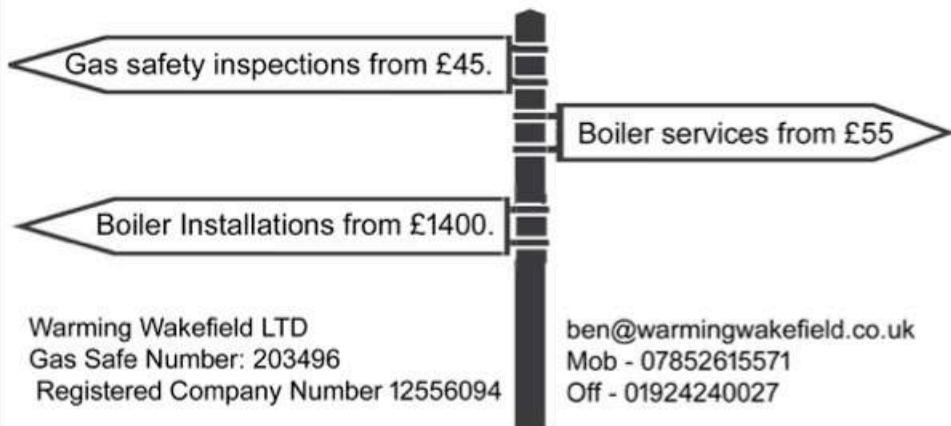
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Bishop Tony invites you to

Follow Me 7

at Wakefield Cathedral

the seventh series of evening teachings
to explore faith and discipleship

Session Running Order:

18:30 Choral Evensong*

19:15 Supper

19:45 Teaching

21:15 Finish

Feel free to join for the whole evening or a selected part.

*optional

Upcoming sessions: (please note January & February dates have been cancelled)



Saturday 26 March, 10:00-15:00 - Quiet Day

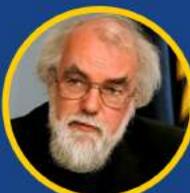
Join Bishop Tony for the next Follow Me session, a Quiet Day at the Community of The Resurrection, Mirfield, giving attendees the opportunity to pause and reflect during our often busy schedules.

(£10 per person, drinks provided, please bring a packed lunch).



Thursday 28 April - Fr Luigi Gioia

Luigi Gioia is a freelance writer and speaker in theology and spirituality. He gives talks, preaches retreats, leads workshops and study days, teaches courses as an invited lecturer in universities, theological colleges, parishes, and a variety of institutions in UK, USA, and many other countries. He is fluent in English, French, and Italian.



Thursday 19 May - The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Rowan Williams

104th Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012, and a noted theologian and writer. Widely revered for his personal qualities, he is also an intellectual giant who towers over almost all his predecessors as Archbishop of Canterbury. Among other achievements, he trounced the atheist Richard Dawkins, and published over twenty well-regarded books, including volumes of poetry and a major study of Dostoevsky.

Please email **Caroline Asquith, PA to Area Bishop of Wakefield** at caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org to book your place (including any dietary requirements) or for more information.

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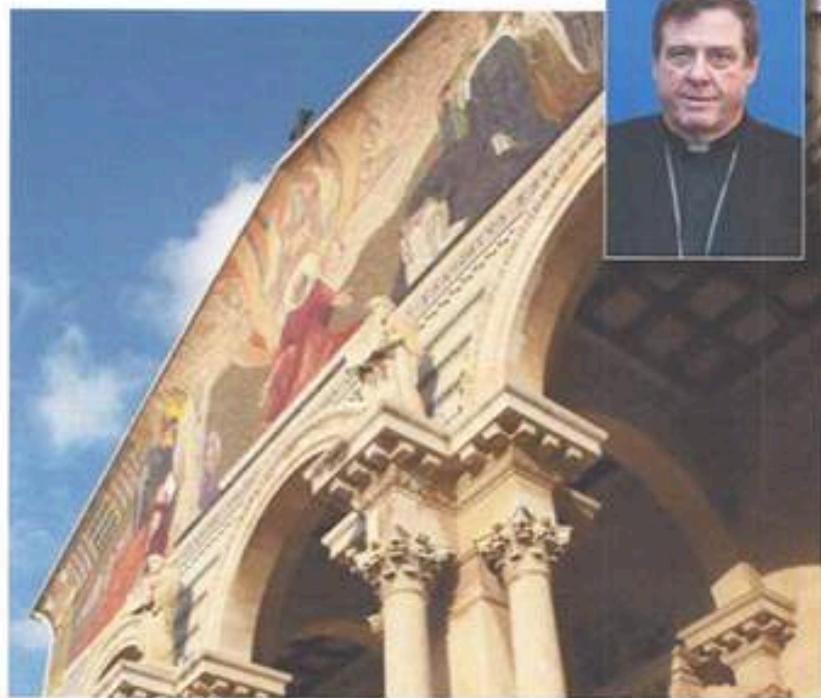
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A Pilgrimage to the
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Led by Bishop Tony Robinson

Monday 21st - Monday 28th November 2022



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.

He is friendly with bad people, and even eats with them..



So Jesus told these stories:

If a man owns 100 sheep..



Imagine having that many sheep!

and he loses 1 of them...



How would you notice with that many sheep?

won't he leave the 99 in the field and look for the lost one?



When he finds it, he tells his friends to celebrate because he has found his lost sheep!



In the same way there is more celebration in heaven when one bad person repents..



than the 99 who don't need to repent.



Or what if a woman who has 10 small coins loses 1?



What's special about a small coin?

Wont she light a lamp, sweep her house, and search until she finds it?



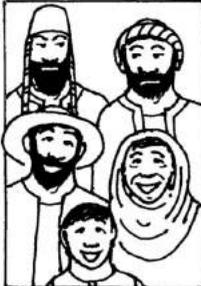
That's what I'd do.

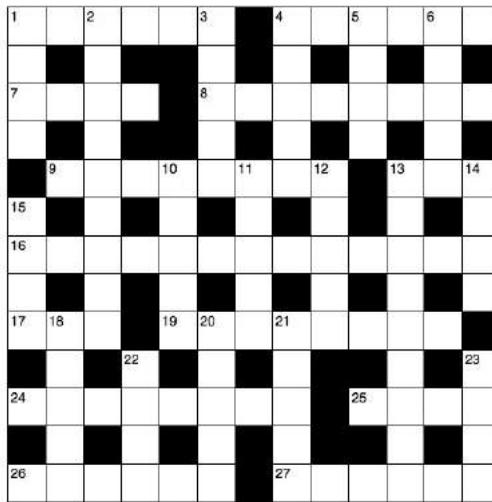
When she finds it she tells her friends to celebrate because she found the coin she had lost.



It was special to her.

In the same way, God's angels rejoice when a bad person repents.





Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

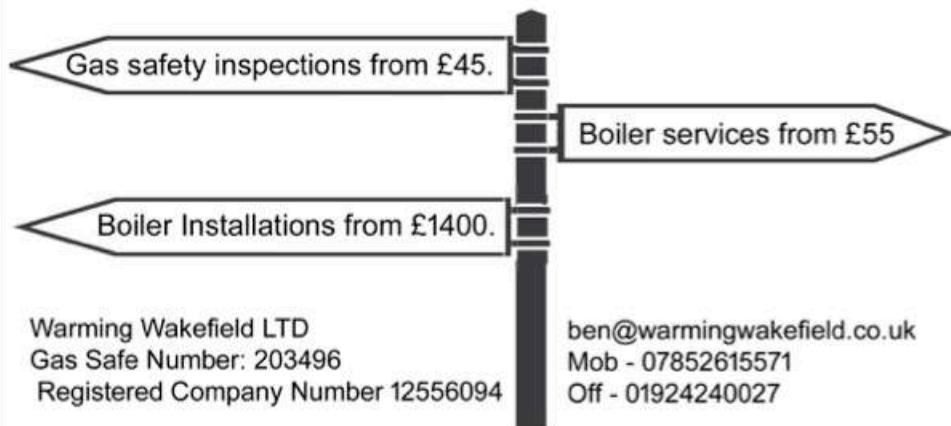
- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)



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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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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.



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Darrington
WF8 3DH

"Two of West Yorkshire's finest mounted branch paying us a visit; well Pontefract, not just us. But it was nice to see them outside the church. They might even leave something for Bill to put on the garden!!"

Thanks, Vivienne!



CARING FOR EACH OTHER....

If you haven't seen someone for a while, please either try and find out how they are or let us know and we will try and make contact. Please also ask the person if they would like to go on the service prayer list (using their full name or just first name). A note to us giving a contact number or address of the person concerned often helps.

Do you have a memory, either happy or sad, that you would like to share with our congregation, a wedding anniversary; a birthday; the passing of a loved one. Please consider sponsoring our service sheet so that we can share this with you. Either write your dedication in the diary in Reception or email stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com or stgmnotices@gmx.com.

David Leigh will happily receive any sponsorship contributions. Thank you.

Account: St Giles Parochial Church Council

Bank: Virgin Money, 81 Carlton Street, Castleford, WF10 1BW

Sort Code: 05-06-71 Account Number: 16172795

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 please visit our website and view the latest Newsletter

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/weekly-notices-2/>

Baptisms, Weddings, Banns: Please telephone or email the Parish Office for further details.
Please check the calendar on St Giles' website or the Order of Service for any alterations.

PCC Vice Chairman

Barbara Sessford 699058

Churchwardens

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

PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator

Vivienne Smales 790448
stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

PCC Treasurer

David Leigh 706526

Organist and Choir Director

James MacDonald 790448

Tower Captain

Adrian Garner 690154

Parish Magazine Editor

Bruce Dalgleish 690216

St Giles' Altar Flowers

Barbara Chessman 700559

St Giles' Food Share, No.6 The Circle

Paul and Ann Harris 07808 808977

Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary

Janet Colvill/Marjorie Laidlaw 704864/795748

Children's Society Box Secretary

Angela Bradley 613643

Missions Committee Secretary

Edith Barber 277226

Pro-Wardens at St Mary's

Frank Ward

St Mary's Church Treasurer

Delia Perrett 796223
David Leigh 706526

St Mary's Church Meeting Chair

Fr Michael Taylor 702824

St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

St Giles' Church School (aided)

Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Andy Weston 07791 656820



Pictures Taken at Hodsock Priory, near Blyth. Sadly the gardens are no longer open, but if you're a galanthophile there are still Nostell Priory, Brodsworth Hall, Fountains Abbey, Mount Grace Priory and many more to visit.

If you're not able to get that far, please just enjoy the photos.

BGD

