

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles with St Mary*



2022 - March



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ?

What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

Join us as we gather together to ask questions, listen to each other's experiences, reflect on passages of Scripture, and pray about what it is to live in love and faith.

St Mary's Church Hall, South Elmsall WF9 2HS
Wednesdays 9th March, 16th March, 23rd March,
30th March, and 6th April
7.00pm – 8.30pm

A car park can be found on Camelot Way,
opposite the church.

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Please do contact us if you have any questions or
would like more information: Rev'd Gemma Fleury
01977646698
or Rev'd Sam Fletcher 07938517350

This month's cover photo: Spring by Hebden Water, Hebden Bridge.

Spring is on its way, new life in the fields and gardens. As I write this at the end of January, snowdrops and buds on daffodils are all making for brightness and newness in our lives. It has been a long two years; although having said that, time has just whizzed by.

A few of you are aware that I have embarked on an exercise regime. Aspire@the Park is where I go, and if you haven't been, have a wander down and have a look.

Anyway, I go into the smaller of two pools to engage in what can be best described as chair exercises in water. Why am I telling you this?

The other day, I noticed that the 30 or so people seem to occupy the same place every time, me included. This then reminded me of church, and I think you know what I am going to say. We tend to sit in the same pews or chairs. My father always used to sit in the same draughty pew.

Why do we do this? I'm not a psychologist, but I suspect it's for comfort and safety. My space in the pool is for both these reasons.

In the church context there are times when we feel uncomfortable before God. Look at the confession, there are many forms; here's one:-

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have wandered and strayed from your ways
like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things
that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

When we pray this, we may feel uncomfortable as we reflect, but gain comfort from having spoken to God.

It's always good to have a conversation with God, who listens to our every word.
God Bless you all.

Fr Michael

‘Please pray for peace for Ukraine’: the Church of England congregation which meets in Kyiv



Christ Church parish has been overwhelmed with support by messages from across the world.

“Please pray for peace for Ukraine and Eastern and Central Europe,” said church warden Christina Laschenko-Stafiychuk.

“I would like to thank to all our friends from the Anglican Communion who wrote and called us during last few days to express their support and solidarity in prayer.

“There are too many to mention by name, but just to mention some congregations from across the UK, Brussels, and in Moscow.

“Our thanks also to the Diocese in Europe and the Canterbury Cathedral Garden Congregation for their special prayers for a peaceful settlement in the last week.”

The congregation of Christ Church meets in the German Lutheran Church in central Kyiv. Born out of a small prayer group, the parish moved to its current site in 2001.

With the support of the Diocese in Europe, the congregation has relied on locum (or non-permanent) priests although is hoping for a more permanent solution.

With a regular community of between 10 and 22 people, Christ Church draws its congregation from across the world and Ukraine.

“We are still meeting regularly,” she said, despite embassies calling for foreign nationals to leave.

“Ukrainians have no other options: this is our land, and we are ready to stand for it – and for our identity as well.”

Conflict in Ukraine began in 2014 following democracy protests in Kyiv.

The later invasion by Russia, the seizure of Crimea, and the support of separatists in Eastern Ukraine have destabilised the region.

It is now estimated tens of thousands of troops are massed on the border.

“Of course, we are scared. But we are better prepared than eight years ago,” Christina said.

Despite tensions, 18 people attended the morning service last Sunday, followed by a Bible study attended by eight congregants.

The parish, which sits less than 20 minutes-walk from the famous Maidan Square, now continue to ask the global Anglican community to join with them in a prayer for peace.

<https://www.churchofengland.org>

Editor's note: you will find a prayer on p11

Dates to remember

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

- Wednesday 2nd March: **Ash Wednesday:** Mass at 9:30am and 7pm
 Citizens Advice: every Wednesday 10am - 12pm
- Friday 4th March: **Organ Recital:** Paul Dewhurst: 1pm
- Sunday 6th March: **Food for No.6**
- Wednesday 9th March: **Lent Course** begins 10:30am (-> 6th April)
 Living in Love and Faith (-> 6th April)
 St Mary's Church Hall, South Elmsall: 7-8:30pm
- Friday 11th March: **Stations of the Cross:** 9:30am (-> 8th April)
- Sunday 13th March: **Electoral Roll:** last day to hand in forms
- Saturday 26th March: **Pontefract Choral Society Concert:** 7:30pm
 Follow Me 7 at Wakefield Cathedral
 See p17 for details
- Friday 1st April: **Organ Recital:** David Baker: 1pm
- Sunday 3rd April: **Annual Parochial Church Meeting:** see p27
- Sunday 10th April: **Palm Sunday: Evensong:** 4pm
 All-Age Celebration St Mary's 4pm
- Wednesday 13th April: **Chocolate Tombola:** 9:30 - 12 noon

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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All-Age Celebrations at St Mary's Church

In recent months, we have started a new initiative at St Mary's Church, hosting a series of one-off All-Age services, which look quite different from our regular Sunday services! Through these events we are reaching out to families, children and people of all ages in our local community, including those who won't have been to church before. They include craft activities, music, prayers, storytelling, and sometimes food. So far, we have had two events: one during Advent, and another on the Feast of Candlemas, celebrating Jesus as a light to the world. These have both been very well received, and a lot of fun! It's been great to see people enjoying the music, getting stuck in to the craft activities, listening to the Bible stories, and getting to know each other better. New connections have been made, and it's been wonderful to see new faces as well as familiar ones.



An Advent wreath made during one of our craft activities.

This is all just the beginning! It will be exciting to see these events grow and develop. We hope and pray that, through this different expression of worship, more and more people will connect to church and hear the good news of Jesus.

Our next event is planned for Palm Sunday (10th April) at 4pm, where we will be sharing the Easter Story. All are very welcome!

Sam Fletcher

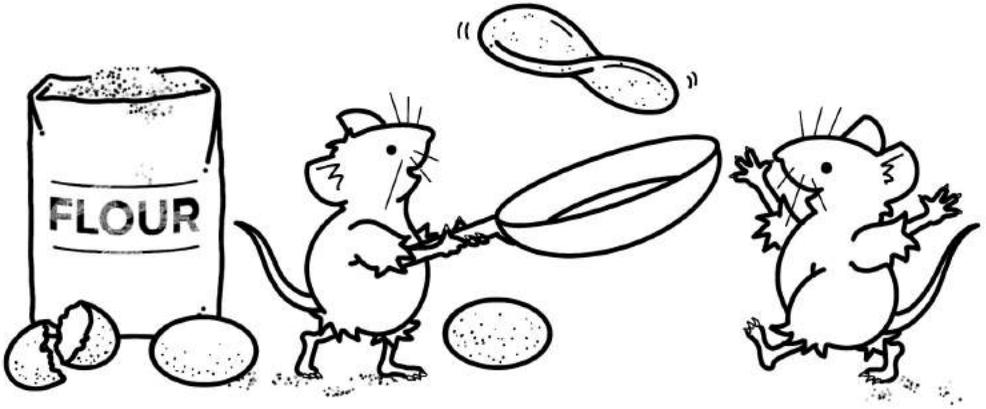
Are You on the Electoral Roll?

The electoral roll is being updated. The formal notice of revision is on the church notice board as required together with notes about use of email addresses and other personal data. If you need to check whether you are on the roll please contact the parish administrator Vivienne Smales (stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com).

If your name is not on the roll, you are aged 16 or over and you would like to be a full voting member of the parish please fill in a form obtainable from Bevil Edwards, Vivienne Smales or a church warden. Forms must be returned no later than Sunday 13th March 2022.

If you are under 16 but your 16th birthday is before April 2023 you can apply now and your name will be entered on the roll when you become 16.

If you have any questions please ask Bevil Edwards.



Artwork by Deborah Noble

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Xchange

Dates for the Diary

Rhythm of Life Lent Retreat - Quiet Day Led by Bishop Tony
Saturday 26th March, 10.00am to 3.00pm
Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield

Please bring a packed lunch, tea/coffee/biscuits will be provided.

Cost: £10.00

LINK: [Rhythm of Life: Lent Retreat - Wakefield Area - Diocese of Leeds Learning \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org.uk/rhythm-of-life-lent-retreat-wakefield-area-diocese-of-leeds-learning)

Please contact Caroline, my PA, for more information or to make a booking.

Email: caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org

Tel: 07776 963653



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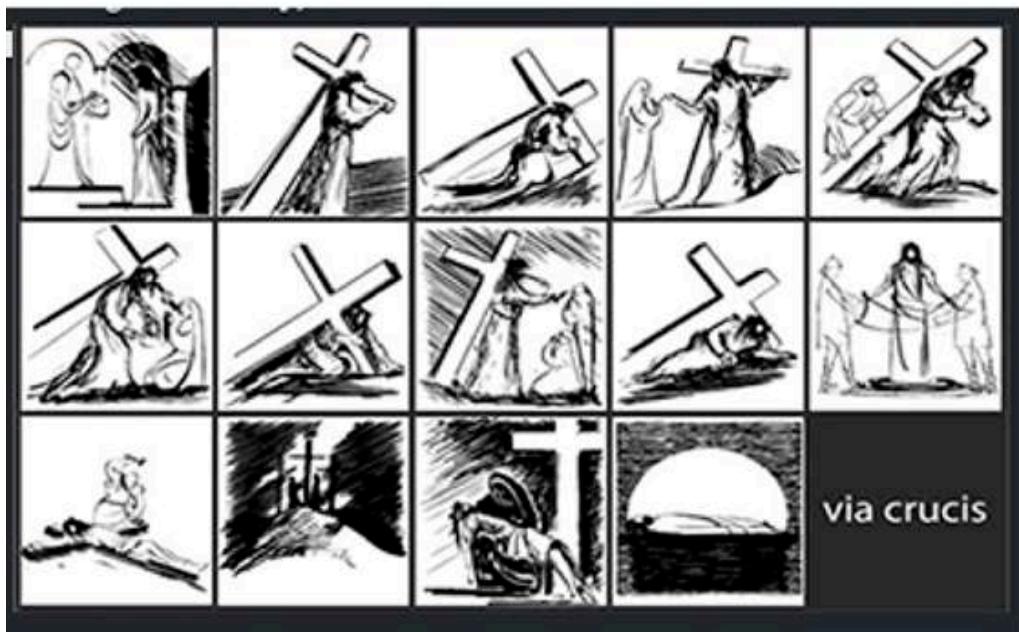
1 - 9 Saville Road
CASTLEFORD
01977 555 733

198 Castleford Road
NORMANTON
01924 899 998

Chris McTigue & Sarah McTigue

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Fridays during Lent, we will be holding morning and evening services of Stations of the Cross at St Giles'. These will be at 10:00, prior to the Friday Mass, and at 18:30, and will last approximately 30 minutes. They will begin on Friday, 11th March. All are welcome.



LENT COURSE

We will be holding a Lent Course on Wednesdays from 9th March – 6th April at 10:30, following the Morning Mass. We will be following a course from St George's College, Jerusalem, entitled 'A River Through the Desert – A Lenten Pilgrimage', which uses reflections on the geography of the Holy Land to help us explore our faith. All are very welcome. If you would like to join, please email the parish office (stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com), or put your name on the sign-up sheet in Reception.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE - LENT APPEAL

Our Lent Appeal for 2022 is Mara - Majengo Mapya.

Due to the continuing Covid situation we will once again be providing two different ways for people to make their donation.

Either, by using the Treasurer's Box in the reception area, marking the envelope 'Lent Appeal' or by bank transfer using the following details.

Account Name: St. Giles' Parochial Church Council

Sort code 05-06-71 Account number 16172795

FOOD DONATIONS TO NO.6 ST GILES' FOODSHARE

Sunday, 6th March is the next day when you can bring in contributions of food for No. 6.

Items which are beginning to be in particularly short supply 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.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.



Wakefield
District

**A WEEKLY DROP-IN ADVICE SESSION AT
ST GILES' CHURCH, MARKET PLACE, PONTEFRACT.**

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10.00am—12.00pm

Telephone: **0800 144 8848** or visit wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk

Could any members of your congregation fit the bill?

1st Xscape Scout Group

The group has been very successful in the restarting of scouting following the impact of Covid and I am pleased to be able to say that we have attracted new young people which has resulted in us needing help with leaders for the Scout section (10yrs to 14yrs)

Could you help to transform a future?

We currently need leaders on Wednesday evening 7.00 - 9.00 at the 1st Xscape Scout group

Would you like the chance to canoe, climb and make bird boxes while improving your CV? As an Assistant leader you will do all of this and more, using your current skills and learning new ones.

We now need fun, committed persons to support young people, helping run games and activities as part of weekly meetings. As part of a small team, you will plan and deliver a safe and exciting programme for young people, helping them achieve badges and awards.

No previous experience of scouting is necessary, What's more important is your own skill and experience as well as empathy with the scouts mission and values. We will provide all appropriate training and ongoing support.

Dear St Giles' church team

Schoolreaders, which places volunteers into primary schools to listen to children read, is urgently looking for volunteers to join its scheme to help pupils at schools in and around Pontefract.

Pre-COVID19, 1 in 4 children left primary school unable to read properly. The pandemic's disruption turned this shocking statistic into an urgent crisis particularly for the most disadvantaged children.

We'd be delighted if you could mention the need for Schoolreaders' volunteers in the March issue of your church magazine as I thought it might appeal to your readership.

Please don't hesitate to come back to me if you require any further information.

Kind regards

Schoolreaders
improving literacy • increasing life chances

Prunella Murray 07780 600180

<http://www.schoolreaders.org/>

Organ Recitals

St Giles' Church
Market Place
Pontefract WF8 1AT

Fridays at 1pm, unless otherwise stated

March 4th

April 1st

May 6th

Saturday May 28th (7pm)

June 3rd

July 1st

Paul Dewhurst

David Baker

Thomas Moore

Donald MacKenzie

Ivan Linford

Marc Murray

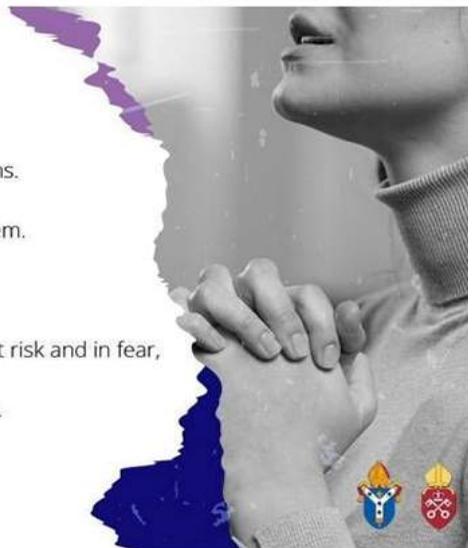
Friday Admission £5 per recital
(includes tea/coffee served from 12.30pm before the recital)

Weekly organ concerts are advertised at www.organrecitals.com

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



Spotlight on Food Share Support: Lynsey, Morrisons Community Champion

Thank you everyone at St Giles and St Mary's who has supported Food Share at No 6 The Circle Chequerfield with its weekly food club for families on Chequerfield and school holiday food projects. With the rising costs for energy and food starting to bite, now, more than ever before, this support is needed by local people.

In addition to the help provided in the parish, Food Share is supported by a network of local organisations: Wakefield District Housing (wdh), Leeds FareShare, Wakefield Council, Chequerfield Pharmacy, Pontefract Foodbank, Pontefract Community Kitchen, YMCA charity shop, Greggs and Stringers Farm, Morrisons and more. It's difficult to imagine how Food Share could function without this network of support. In recognition of this help, we would like to shine a spotlight on these organisations through the magazine and the people in those organisations who "make it happen" for No 6.



One of our key supporters is Lynsey, Community Champion at Morrisons. Lynsey has worked through the pandemic, organising Pontefract Morrisons' community support. The most visible aspect of the support for local food-aid schemes (Airedale Foodbank and Pontefract Community Kitchen as well as Food Share) is the display at the entrance to the supermarket, where customers can pick up (usually green) charity bags to buy alongside their weekly shop.

Lynsey and her colleagues have been working for some time before we meet up with her at 8 every Friday morning to buy our milk, juice and jam supplies for the week. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Lynsey when we call into the store. So she's there to greet us with a smile and a ready-filled trolley of our purchases, and makes up another trolley of items for the Project, both a selection of the green bags and some items donated from stock. Thank you Lynsey for all you and your colleagues are doing to support Food Share. It's great to be able to work with you and Morrisons to allow local people to express their concern for others through the schemes you run.



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).

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

From February 2022 the parish magazine will be made available in print to anyone who would like a copy. Please complete the form in Reception to indicate whether you would like a printed version or leave a message in the Parish Office or email stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com The charge for the magazine for 2022 is £10 for the year for 9 editions. Could all payments be made as soon as possible to David Leigh, either by cash, cheque (payable to St Giles' PCC) or by bank transfer (details below). If you chose to access the magazine electronically, please consider making a donation to the cost of producing the magazine. If you normally deliver a magazine to someone, please inform them of the new charges, collect payment and let the office know so that we can prepare copies accordingly. Any profits from the magazine production help church finances.

Account: St Giles Parochial Church Council

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

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

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

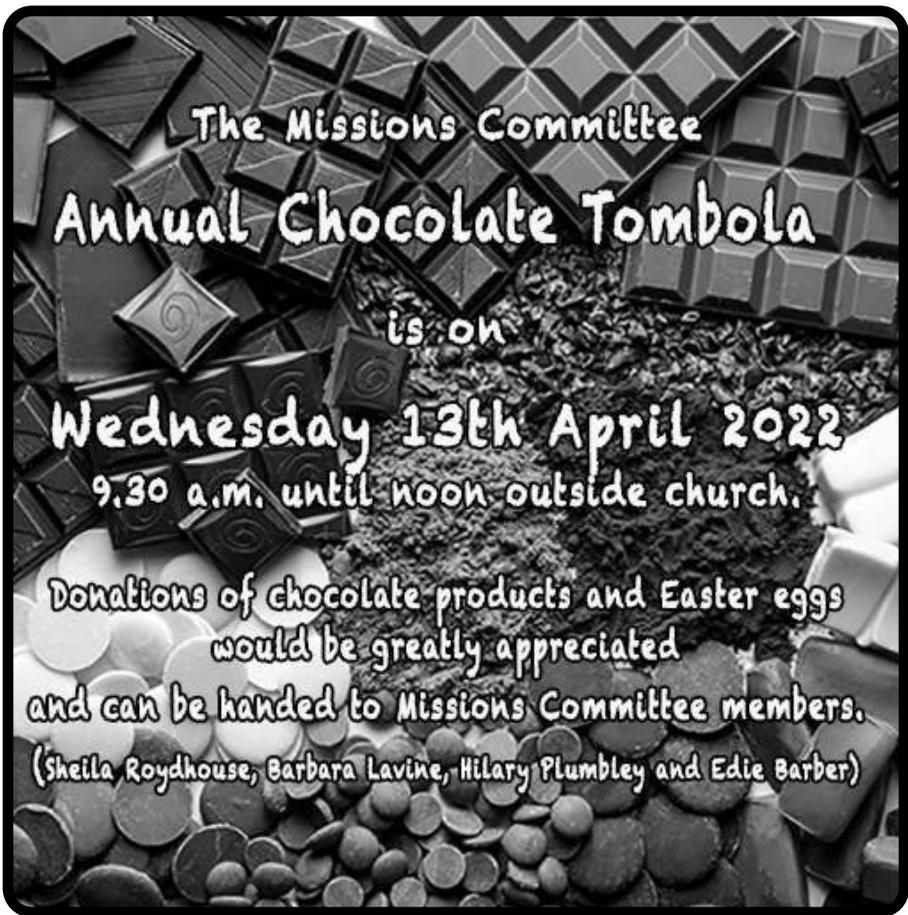
To find out more information on the care that both homes can offer you, or your loved one, please visit our website or contact our Home Manager, Tamsin Ryan.



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The Missions Committee
Annual Chocolate Tombola

is on

Wednesday 13th April 2022

9.30 a.m. until noon outside church.

Donations of chocolate products and Easter eggs
would be greatly appreciated
and can be handed to Missions Committee members.

(Sheila Roydhouse, Barbara Lavine, Hilary Plumley and Edie Barber)

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.

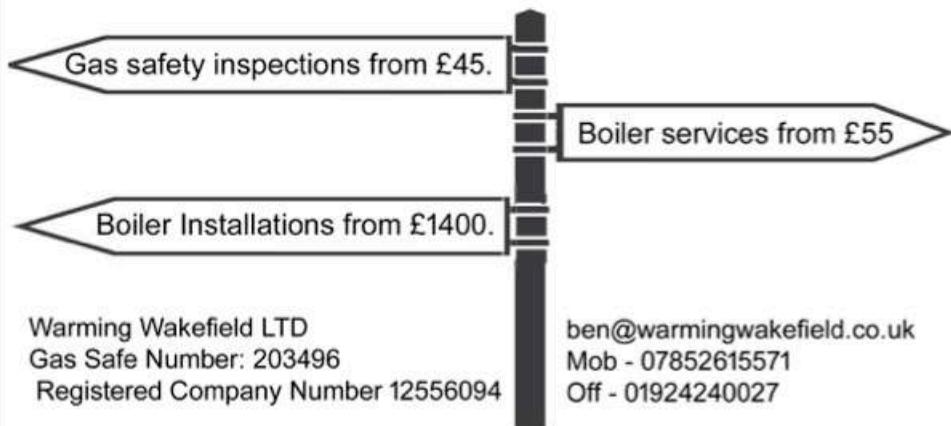
Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's magazine. It is really encouraging to receive such a range of articles and notices. Do keep them coming in! If you would like to contribute to the **April** magazine, please send your item to both Bruce Dalgleish, Editor(brucedalgleish0@gmail.com) and Vivienne Smales (stgileschurchurchpontefract@gmail.com), or simply hand it to a churchwarden. The **deadline** for next month is **Sunday 20th March**.



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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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Diocese of Leeds

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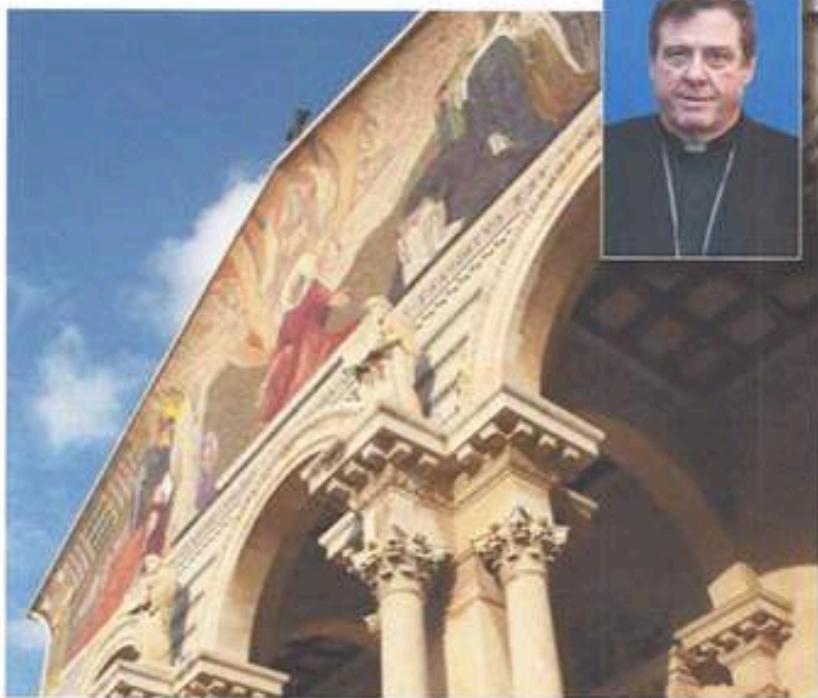
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A Pilgrimage to the
HOLY LAND

Led by Bishop Tony Robinson

Monday 21st - Monday 28th November 2022



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Dear St Giles' congregation,

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. Romans 12:12-13

Isn't it wonderful now that Covid restrictions are starting to be lifted, and we can, once again, practise hospitality, as we are reminded in this verse from Paul's letter to the Roman church? Hospitality is one of the main ways we keep our ministry going and doing it online, we found, wasn't that good. But now we can be in-person again, even if we have to wear face-coverings and wash hands etc. It feels like we are being released from a kind of prison! Restrictions, here in Nepal, are being relaxed. Schools, colleges and universities are all reopening. Even UMN is opening the offices for colleagues to work from there. All this means we can begin to use the prayer/community space again. Last weekend we had a group of Christian counsellors in for two days. This coming weekend we have an open house on Saturday afternoon for the UMNers that live in Kathmandu. It will be a fun afternoon for adults and children. During the week there are three counsellors, including Andrea, seeing clients. Things we want to start include a Bible study group, an early morning meditative prayer time, and an occasional quiet day. It is lovely to see the place coming alive again.

UMN gave thanks this weekend as one of its agreements with the government was signed and could officially begin. With the agreement came work visas for two UMNers who have been waiting for this to happen. Sadly, our major project agreements are taking much longer to get official recognition and signing by government departments. The knock-on effect is that a few UMNers waiting for their work visas may have to leave the country until the agreements are signed. Please pray for these friends who want to work in development projects and are put on hold by bureaucratic delays.

Work in our two hospitals goes on in a much easier way and agreements for our work in this area were signed last year. This has meant a number of new families have joined the team in Tansen, most of them from Sweden. We plan to visit them in a few weeks and make sure they have settled in well.

Andrea continues her studies at Tribhuvan University and has her third semester exams in a week or two, once they decide when they will be. The dates keep changing, which is a bit frustrating as we are planning a holiday over the Easter period. We want to be in the UK when our daughter, Anna, has her first baby. Hopefully, the timing will work out OK.

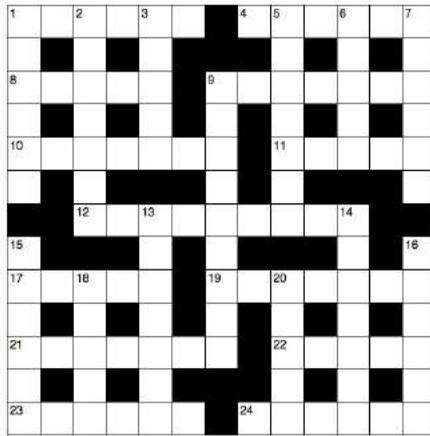
Here are a couple of links to bring you a flavour of the work UMN is currently engaged in. The first is the recent news bulletin and the second a link to a recently made video about how we are working alongside local people, helping them to bring the development they want in their village.

We are thankful for your prayers and support.
God's peace, Andrew & Andrea

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



Editor's note: United Mission to Nepal (UMN) strives to address root causes of poverty as it serves the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. Established in 1954, UMN is a cooperative effort between the people of Nepal and a large number of Christian organisations from nearly 20 countries on 4 continents.



Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Solution to last months' crossword:

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

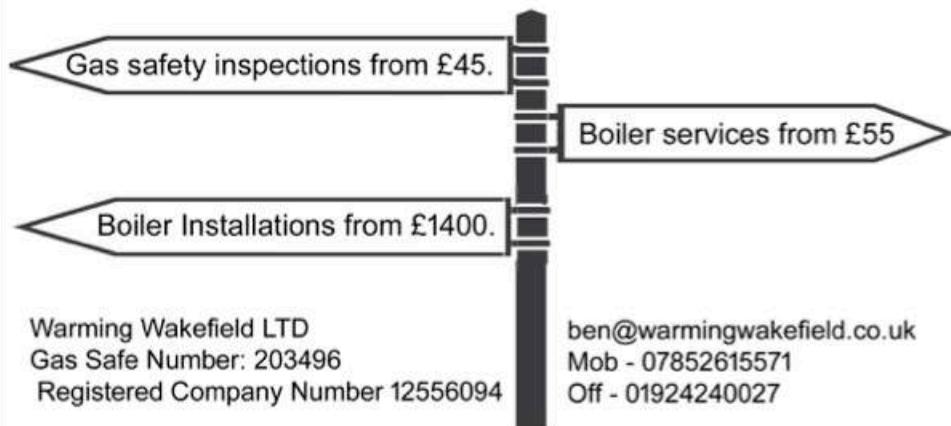
DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.



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(Universal Credit – Help to Claim)

Telephone 0800 144 8 444

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

Telephone 0808 223 1133

Email us via

www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk

Web chat with us at

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

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

NOTES FROM THE PCC MEETING 25 JANUARY 2022

Fourteen members were able to join us for the PCC meeting on Tuesday, 25th January and four kindly gave their apologies.

The **Parish Magazine** will now be printed 9 times per year, that being editions in February, March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, November, and December/January. The quality of the magazine is to be improved by using a card cover printed in colour and the internal pages in black and white. With the current photocopier, it is not possible to print a centre page in colour. The subscription to the magazine for printed copies will be £10 per year for the 9 editions or charged at £1 per copy to anyone purchasing individual copies. It is hoped that anyone choosing to read the magazine online would make a donation to the church for this service.

The **Pontefract Community Showcase** will be taking place in the library this year and although the church will not take a stall due to our close proximity to the Library, No. 6 St Giles Food Share have advised that they will participate. They will be able to direct people to St Giles, which will be open on the morning of the event for coffee.

The PCC accepted a new constitution from **Churches Together in Pontefract** which required approval from the various groups involved.

The Pontefract Civic Society has drawn up a schedule of local events for the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend** (2nd -5th June). St Giles will be hoping to host several events such as extending Open Church opening hours on those days; a thanksgiving service (awaiting a directive from the Church of England); an Afternoon Tea; coffee morning and tombola. (Tickets will be sold for the Afternoon Tea.) Work on this is ongoing.

From Thursday, 28 January 2022 Plan B **Covid measures** will be withdrawn. Whilst face masks will not be mandatory, it was agreed to recommend people continued with masks whilst in church until at least the end of February when a further review will take place.

Minutes from the Standing Committee and Centre Management Committee were all received together with an updated version of the Centre Strategy Map, which had been simplified. St Mary's Committee Meetings had recently recommenced with Fr Michael chairing the meeting. An All-Age Advent service drawing on benefice resources had been held with 30 adults and 14 children attending. It was an informal service with singing, crafts and a meal. Another All-Age service will be held on Candlemas, but without a meal. Further services are being planned for Palm Sunday and Pentecost, with a potential for regular informal services to be held monthly from 2023. A monthly coffee morning may also be held.

The **St Giles PCC accounts** for 2021 were reviewed and these showed an increase on income from the budget due to a VAT refund and a refund from the Job Retention Scheme. There were also slight increases from direct giving. Decreases in the budget were mainly due to legacies, donations, and coffee morning receipts all being lower than budgeted. Expenditure was less than expected due to the Parish Share not being paid in full. The Summary of Receipts and Payments 2021 will be submitted to the APCM.

There has been a reduction in staffing hours for one employee. **Lunch with Us** has seen a decrease in donations due to the covid pandemic and only being able to offer a takeaway

service. This is a valuable service and since its inception has served 28,000 meals over the years and recently celebrated its 300th session. Huge congratulations to them.

The **No.6 St Giles Food Share project** has received several grants during the pandemic. As the PCC is a registered charity and underpins the project, grants can be applied for.

The **Budget for 2022** was circulated, showing one main increase due to the huge rise in gas prices. The budget is set assuming the Parish Share is paid in full, however, the amount of parish share that will be paid in 2022 will be reviewed later in the year. The budget will also be closely monitored given the likelihood of a significant deficit. The budget for 2022 was approved.

There were no **safeguarding** issues to report, although in January 2022, the Safeguarding Dashboard threw up some changes which will be discussed further.

The **Fabric, Health and Safety** report reflected on an attack of vandalism to the West window over the Christmas period, but this has now been repaired. Unfortunately rising damp has been identified in the North vestibule resulting in the need for a survey to be carried out. Redecoration of the church is ongoing and a Smart Water pack has been purchased for the roof. Paint for the redecoration and the Smart Water have been purchased thanks to a generous donation.

Cath Fox, **trainee Reader**, has been welcomed to St Giles and will stay with us until Palm Sunday, Jill Clapham is on a similar placement. Tony Williams was authorised as a Pastoral Minister at the service on 23 January.

Future events will include an **Evensong service on 6 February** to reflect the Queen's Accession to the throne.

The **Deanery Synod** will meet at St Giles on Thursday 25 February. This will be an open meeting with a talk on 'Living in Love and Faith' – a church wide consultation on gender and sexuality.

The **Missions Committee** have arranged a Beetle Drive on Wednesday, 23 February to which all are welcome; donations in Lent will go to our link parish in Mara. The committee will be holding their chocolate tombola and a toy stall at some later point in the year.

Lent and Easter services will include: services on Ash Wednesday (2 March) at 9.30am and 7.00pm; a Lent course will be run this year on Wednesdays after Mass; Stations of the Cross will also run in Lent; during Holy Week services will be held across the benefice on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; an evening service will be held at St Giles on Maundy Thursday at 7.00pm; on Good Friday the service will be at 2.00pm instead of 7.00pm; services on Easter Sunday will be at 8.00am and 10.15am.

Organ recitals continue monthly

A **Confirmation service** will be held on 4 September (St Giles patronal) with Bishop Tony.

The **APCM** will be held on Sunday, 3 April 2022 after the service.



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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

St Giles, Sunday 3rd April following the morning service

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting beginning with the Meeting of Parishioners for the election of **four** Churchwardens.

At the APCM we will need to elect **four** new PCC members for St Giles.

Please feel free to talk with Canon June or any of the churchwardens about any of the vacancies. Forms will need to be completed and received ahead of the meeting and can be obtained from church , or from the church website.

www.stgilespontefract.org.uk

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/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

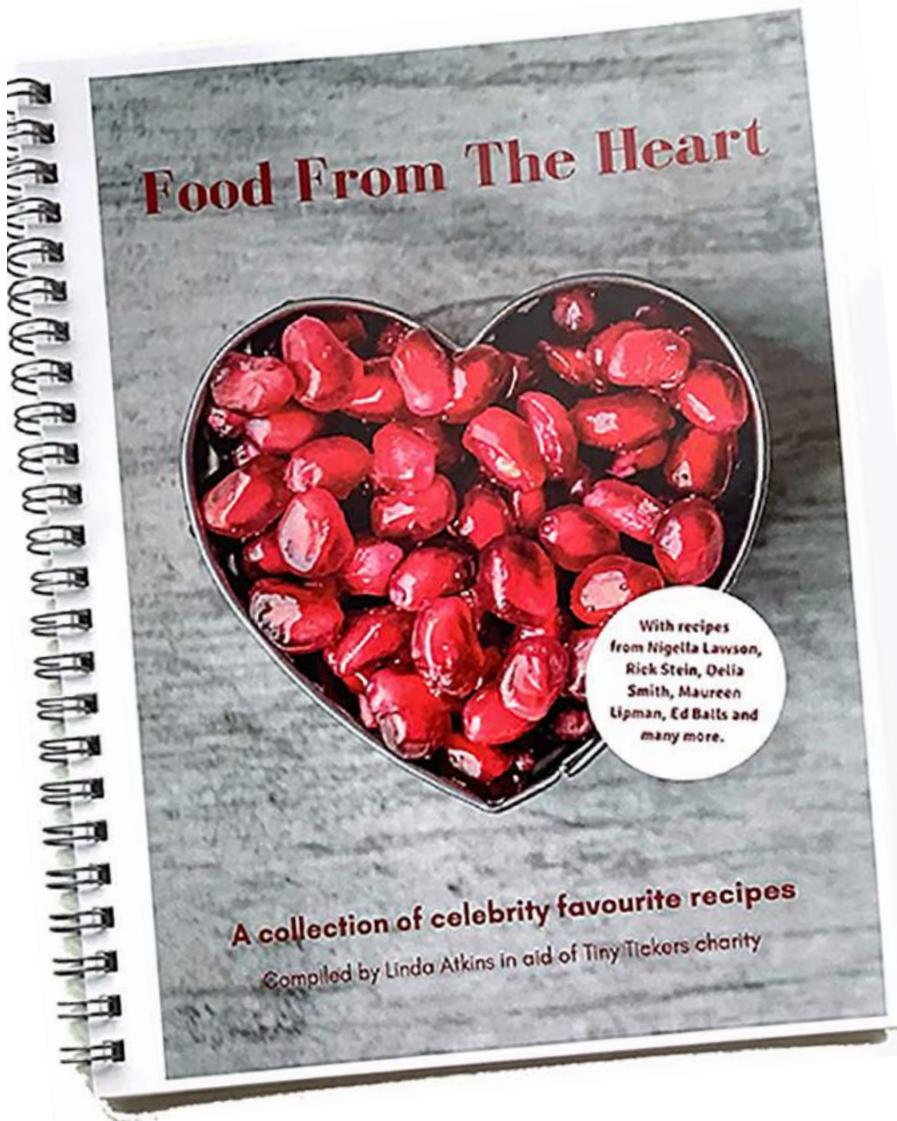
Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

St Giles' Church School (aided)

Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Andy Weston 07791 656820



Food From The Heart, a collection of celebrities' favourite recipes, compiled by Linda Atkins to raise funds for Tiny Tickers. The book is available for a suggested donation of £6, plus p&p, if needed. To order, please contact Linda on 01977709818 or lindaroma2@btinternet.com

