



The Benefice of Pontefract

Parish of St Giles with St Mary's

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A Message from Canon June

A whirlwind of a week as we have had to respond very rapidly to directives from the national church and our diocese. I would never have imagined that we would lose the capacity to meet together in prayer and worship as quickly as it came. We are hoping to be able to post the Mothering Sunday service booklet online so that you can perhaps take a quiet moment to share in the parts of the liturgy as if we were all together in church. Our usual notice sheet will include the collect, readings and names of those on our prayer list for those who might only be able to read through those texts.

There will also be notice of a request for us all on Sunday to join in praying with others across our country by **lighting a candle and placing it in our windows at 7.00pm**. These feel like dark days, but we must hold onto the gospel message that the light of Christ's presence in our lives will never be overcome by whatever 'darkness' threatens to lock us into fear and uncertainty at the moment. At 7.00pm, I will go into church and light all our candles, look around our church where you usually all sit and pray for you with much love and affection in my heart.

We must do all we can to keep in touch with each other. Do be in touch with me or any of the clergy if you need to chat and please do let us know if you need any practical help. We will continue to use our social media outlets to share things with you that we hope will be a spiritual help. Above all, keep safe.

Morning and Evening prayer will be said in St Giles at 9.00am and 4.30pm daily. You can go on our website and click the links through to the Church of England which will provide these services for you. A simpler version will also be available on our website as will the Service of Compline. This service is a beautiful way of ending the day in prayer; why not light a candle and share in that short service knowing that Christians across the world, especially in monastic communities, will be praying alongside you. 9.15pm is a common time to gather to pray in those communities. It will be important to take comfort from knowing that though we may be apart from our Christian community at St Giles in a physical sense, we are still held together by bonds of affection and care and through joining together in prayer as we are able.

So much of our Scripture has come out of the need to provide strength and to encourage the deepening of faith in people and communities who are facing challenging times. To such a community St Paul wrote, 'Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.' That is my prayer for each one of you.

On the following pages you will find the Collect and Readings for this Sunday and a notice regarding the funeral of Allan Turner can be found on the back page.

Canon June

COLLECT AND READINGS FOR 22ND MARCH—MOTHERING SUNDAY

Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Or

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Exodus 2:1-10

2 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman,² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket ^[a] for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

⁸ “Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. ⁹ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

Psalm 127. -4

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
- 2 Unless the Lord keeps the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.
- 3 It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of toil,
for he gives his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

Luke 2:33-35

³³ The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

We pray for those who are ill :

Linda; Mar; Murray; Hans; Lesley; Gail & Liam; Derek & Janet; Pam & Brian; Cynthia; Brenda; Jean; Margaret; Jonathan; Ellie; Joyce; Barrie; Lucy Nichol; Rhys Williams; Janis Gallagher; Catherine & Colin Godridge; Pat Steel; Sandra Cutting; David Murray; Anita Murray; Robert Metcalfe; Russ Hunter; Ray Steel; Jean Johnson.

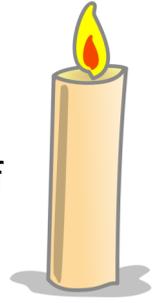
We pray for those who have recently died: Stanley Firth; David Adams; Allan Turner.

And those whose years mind falls at this time: Bernard Goddard; Constance Taylor; Dorothy Barnett; Annie Cooksey.

We pray for our nation and our world at this time...

The leaders of Churches together in England have commented 'We have the great privilege and freedom to be able to call upon God, wherever we are, individually and corporately, for healing in our nation. We pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19 virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions...'

At 7pm this Sunday, we are encouraged to light a candle in the windows of our homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.



FUNERAL OF ALLAN TURNER - RIP

Due to the new Church of England restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, Allan Turner's family deeply regret that we can now have only immediate family at his funeral service. We are sorry for any upset and disappointment that this causes. It will not be the send-off that we hoped for him. The family would still welcome contributions to Allan's memorial book. Please send these (hand-written or typed) by post to Dr. J. Blake, 22, Fabian Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 8XQ, or via email to jan.blake@blakesheaven.co.uk. **Please restrict contributions to no more than 13 cm wide and 19 cm high.**

Publication Deadlines

Wednesday March, 25th: Deadline for Notices.

Items must be received by 3:00 p.m. Please use the Grey Diary in Reception or e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

April 19th: Deadline for May's Parish Magazine

Please hand your item to Bruce or a Churchwarden. Alternatively, e-mail it to both brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmmonthlymag@gmx.com

If you would like something posted on our social media platforms, please email stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com

To keep in touch with the latest news from the Parish, please visit our websites:

www.stgilespontefract.org.uk

www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk.

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We look forward to hearing from you soon!